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## Culture and Psychiatric Evaluation: Operationalizing Cultural Formulation for *DSM-5*

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## Abstract

The Outline for Cultural Formulation (OCF) introduced with *DSM-IV* provided a framework for clinicians to organize cultural information relevant to diagnostic assessment and treatment planning. However, use of the OCF has been inconsistent, raising questions about the need for guidance on implementation, training, and application in diverse settings. To address this need, *DSM-5* introduced a cultural formulation interview (CFI) that operationalizes the process of data collection for the OCF. The CFI includes patient and informant versions and 12 supplementary modules addressing specific domains of the OCF. This article summarizes the literature reviews and analyses of experience with the OCF conducted by the DSM-5 Cross-Cultural Issues Subgroup (DCCIS) that informed the development of the CFI. We review the history and contents of the *DSM-IV* OCF, its use in training programs, and previous attempts to render it operational through questionnaires, protocols, and semi-structured interview formats. Results of research based on the OCF are discussed. For each domain of the OCF, we summarize findings from the DCCIS that led to content revision and operationalization in the CFI. The conclusion discusses training and implementation issues essential to service delivery.

Culture shapes every aspect of patient care in psychiatry, influencing when, where, how, and to whom patients narrate their experiences of illness and distress (Kirmayer, 2006), the patterning of symptoms (Kleinman, 1977), and the models clinicians use to interpret and understand symptoms in terms of psychiatric diagnoses (Kleinman, 1987). Culture also shapes patients' perceptions of care, including what types of treatment are acceptable and for how long (Lewis-Fernández et al., 2013). Even when patients and clinicians share similar cultural, ethnic or linguistic backgrounds, culture impacts care through other influences on identity, such as those due to gender, age, class, race, occupation, sexual orientation, and religion (Lu, Lim, & Mezzich, 1995). Culture affects the clinical encounter for every patient, not only underserved minority groups, and cultural formulation therefore is an essential component of any comprehensive assessment.

The publication of the Outline for Cultural Formulation (OCF) in *DSM-IV* (American Psychiatric Association [APA], 1994) was a milestone for cultural psychiatry, acknowledging culture's relevance to mainstream psychiatry. The OCF was a concise list of cultural topics organized by broad domains for clinicians to consider in the assessment of patients. The OCF was developed through literature reviews conducted by the National Institute of Mental Health–sponsored Group on Culture and Diagnosis in 1991–1993 (Mezzich, 2008; Mezzich et al., 1999). The goal of the OCF was to help clinicians identify cultural and contextual factors relevant to diagnosis and treatment (Lewis-Fernández & Díaz, 2002; Mezzich, Caracci, Fábrega, & Kirmayer, 2009). The *DSM-IV* explained that the OCF was “meant to supplement the multi-axial diagnostic assessment and to address difficulties that may be encountered in applying *DSM-IV* criteria in a multicultural environment” (APA, 1994, p. 897). The OCF was reprinted without revision in *DSM-IV-TR* (APA, 2000).

Two decades of experience with the OCF led to its revision for *DSM-5* (APA, 2013) and the development of semi-structured interviews to make the process of collecting information for the OCF more operational. This set of interviews is known collectively as the *Cultural Formulation Interview* (CFI) and consists of a core 16-item questionnaire supplemented by 12 modules for further assessment as well as an informant version to obtain material from care-givers (APA, 2013; available at <http://www.psych.org/practice/dsm/dsm5/online-assessment-measures>).

This article presents the scientific background and rationale for the OCF revisions and new CFI-related material in *DSM-5*, included in the Cultural Formulation chapter and the APA website. We summarize the information used to refine the OCF and develop the CFI for *DSM-5*. We combine two sources of evidence: (1) data from a series of literature reviews conducted by members of the DSM-5 Cross-Cultural Issues Subgroup (DCCIS) and (2) a summary of the main conceptual issues raised by the DCCIS during the revision process.

## THE DSM-5 CROSS-CULTURAL ISSUES SUBGROUP

The DCCIS was part of the larger Gender and Cross-Cultural Issues Study Group and composed of international experts in culture and mental health. The authors of this review were members, advisors, or collaborators of the Subgroup, chaired by Roberto Lewis-

Fernández and Kimberly Yonkers. Our goal was to improve the assessment of culture within psychiatric diagnosis and treatment planning. Specifically, the Subgroup was charged by the DSM-5 Task Force with making recommendations on racial, ethnic, cultural, and contextual issues to the DSM-5 Work Groups related to differences in risk factors, precipitants, symptom presentations, prevalence, symptom severity, and course of illness.

In addition, the DCCIS undertook a critical review of the *DSM-IV* OCF. DCCIS participants prepared literature reviews on the whole OCF, each of its four domains, and on implementation questions raised by its use in clinical care (e.g., best practices; special populations in need of attention such as children, the elderly, or immigrants and refugees; format and content of interviews, protocols, and questionnaires operationalizing the Outline). They were also asked to recommend revisions to the OCF for *DSM-5*.

Based on this information, the OCF was revised slightly for *DSM-5*, mostly by making the *DSM-IV* text more explicit in places. Examples of this clarification include: incorporating elements of cultural identity not mentioned in *DSM-IV* (e.g., religious affiliation, sexual orientation); instructing clinicians to identify actual stressors and supports in the patient's environment as well as their interpretation of the patient's illness; and mention of the potential impact of racism and discrimination on the clinician-patient relationship.

More substantial changes related to making the OCF more user friendly by developing an interview to guide the process of clinical data collection. An initial 14-item interview was developed largely through previous question lists, interview protocols, and interviews that operationalized the OCF (see Table 1); most authors of these approaches were members of the DCCIS. Questions were formulated, discussed, and debated in 2010 and 2011 in biweekly conference calls, supported by the *DSM-5* development process. The resulting 14-item version of the CFI was tested in a field trial from November 2011 to November 2012 at 12 clinical sites in the United States, Canada, Peru, the Netherlands, Kenya, and India. This trial utilized a standardized training video (<http://www.ucl.ac.uk/ccs/specialist-services/#cfi>) to evaluate the CFI's feasibility, acceptability, and clinical utility among patients and clinicians. Field trial results informed the final 16-item version in *DSM-5*. Supplementary modules were also developed for more comprehensive assessment. Some modules expand sections of the core CFI and others were developed for use with school-age children and adolescents, elderly individuals, immigrants and refugees, and caregivers (Table 2). An informant version was prepared to elicit collateral information from parents and others in the patient's support system. These instruments help clinicians tailor the comprehensiveness of cultural assessment through a “telescoping” approach. Because of ongoing data analysis, a description of the development of the final CFI from the field trial results will appear in future publications.

## METHODS FOR THE LITERATURE REVIEW

An initial literature search was conducted on Medline and PsycInfo for all publications since 1994 when *DSM-IV* was published. The phrases “cultural formulation,” “cultural assessment,” “cultural consultation,” and “cultural interview” were paired with the term “mental.” The search produced 1,153 articles from Medline and 111 articles on PsycInfo.

Abstracts were reviewed for relevance by the first two authors and full texts were retrieved for all original publications with data from the OCF. A list of 140 pertinent titles was circulated to the coauthors, who augmented the list individually by inspection of bibliographies from retrieved articles, by additional searches of specific topics that pertain to the Outline (such as “cultural identity”), by bibliographies from general articles on cross-cultural assessment and explanatory models, and by references from 1965–1994, when appropriate. Coauthors accessed additional material in English, Danish, Dutch, French, Norwegian, Spanish, and Swedish.

## RESULTS

In what follows, we focus on the deliberations of the DCCIS, including results of the literature reviews. We first review the original *DSM-IV* OCF, its use in training programs, and previous attempts to operationalize it through questionnaires, protocols, and semi-structured interviews. Second, results of research based on the OCF are discussed. Next, for each OCF domain, we summarize findings from the literature reviews and discussions by the DCCIS that led to the CFI. We follow the same process to identify implementation issues in service delivery. Focusing on previous operationalizations of the OCF, we highlight common interviewing approaches to elicit the OCF domains that were included in the CFI.

### Content, Use in Training, and Previous Operationalization of the OCF

The *DSM-IV* OCF organized clinical information in four domains: (1) cultural identity of the individual, (2) cultural explanations of illness, (3) cultural interpretation of psychosocial stressors, supports, and levels of functioning, and (4) cultural elements of the patient-clinician relationship. Information from these domains influencing diagnosis and treatment were summarized and synthesized in a fifth section to provide an overall formulation (APA, 1994). The *DSM-IV* Culture and Diagnosis Group intended for the Outline to provide an account of patients' illness experience that captured not just symptoms but also personal and cultural meanings and social context (Mezzich, 1995). The cultural formulation would then be presented in a narrative that explained causal links and meanings in a way that extended a bio-psycho-social formulation (Kleinman, 1988; Lewis-Fernández & Diaz, 2002). Social theory guided delineation of the domains, including the role of identity in clinical presentation (domain 1), cultural meanings and explanatory models of illness (domain 2), social networks providing support or stressors affecting functional capacity (domain 3), and the professional's reflections on the patient-clinician relationship (domain 4) (Mezzich, 2008). Subsequent publications have considered how clinical assessment should cover the four domains of the OCF (e.g., Group for the Advancement of Psychiatry [GAP], 2001; Lewis-Fernández, 1996; Lim, 2006; Lu et al., 1995; Mezzich et al., 2009).

The OCF has been used worldwide. Educators have utilized it in training programs in Canada (Fung, Andermann, Zaretsky, & Lo, 2008; Kirmayer, Rousseau, Guzder, & Jarvis, 2008a; Kirmayer et al., 2012), Denmark (Østerskov, 2011), India (Jadhav & Jain, 2012), the Netherlands (Beijers & Van Dijk, 2012), Norway (Bäärnhielm, Scarpinati Rosso, & Pattyi, 2010), Spain (Caballero, 2008), Sweden (Bäärnhielm, Scarpinati Rosso, & Pattyi, 2007;

Bäärnhielm & Gustafsson, 2010), the UK (Jadhav, 2010a, 2010b), and the US (Harris, McQuery, Raab, & El-more, 2008; Lim, 2006; Lim, Diamond et al., 2008a; Lim, Luo et al., 2008b). In a purposive sample of 20 preceptors from U.S. adult psychiatry residency programs, 70% had at least one class on the OCF, usually during the first two years (Hansen et al., 2013). Similarly, centers providing outpatient services to migrants and refugees in Sweden (Scar-pinati Rosso & Bäärnhielm, 2012) and the Netherlands (Rohlof, Knipscheer, & Kleber, 2009) have used the OCF for standard clinical assessment.

While much of this work has found the OCF a useful clinical tool, problems have also been identified. Guidance has been lacking on when, with whom, and why to use the OCF (Cuéllar & Paniagua, 2000), and it may duplicate information from the clinical assessment (Caballero, 2009). Clinicians have struggled to find ways to cover the four domains within the time constraints of various practice settings (Lewis-Fernández, 2009). Some subsections of the OCF may be imprecise and overlapping and some important topics were absent (Ton & Lim, 2006). It is not clear which components of the OCF are particularly relevant for treatment planning and adaptation of clinical approaches and should be emphasized in practice (Mezzich et al., 2009). Use of the OCF with children (Aggarwal, 2010a; Rousseau, Measham & Bathiche-Suidan, 2009), immigrants and refugees (Groen, 2009a; Rohlof et al., 2009), homeless populations (Jadhav, 2001a), those with limited literacy (Jadhav & Jain, 2012), and the elderly (Aggarwal, 2010b; Takeshita & Ahmed, 2004) may require collateral sources of information or local adaptations. The lack of a standard approach to the OCF has hindered generalizable research (Alar-cón, 2009; Mezzich et al., 2009).

Such concerns prompted efforts to make the OCF more operational, with lists of suggested questions, protocols for topics to be covered during OCF-based assessments, and semi-structured interviews (Table 1). These approaches were developed in Canada (Kirmayer et al., 2001), the Netherlands (Groen, 2009b; Rohlof, 2008; Rohlof, Loevy, Sassen, & Hehnich, 2002; van Dijk, Beijers, & Groen, 2012), Sweden (Bäärnhielm & Scarpinati Rosso, 2009), the United States (Mezzich et al., 2009), the United Kingdom (Jadhav, 2010a, 2010b), and Denmark (Østerskov, 2011). All of these interviews were designed to enhance clinical assessment and treatment planning rather than to elicit research data. In related work, interviews were developed for research focusing on cultural epidemiology and illness narratives, including the Explanatory Model Interview Catalogue (Weiss, 2001) and the McGill Illness Narrative Interview (Groleau, Young, & Kirmayer, 2006). Developers of many of these instruments were members of the DCCIS, and their experience informed the preparation of a new cultural formulation interview for *DSM-5*.

In refining the OCF and developing the CFI, we were sensitive to the potential pitfalls of some simplistic approaches to cultural competence that may stereotype groups through race, ethnicity, or religion. Our framework adopted a person-centered approach that aimed to be attentive to what is at stake for the patient (Kleinman & Benson, 2006). Rather than approaching culture as a checklist of traits, factors, or dimensions, the OCF was intended to be based on a “mini-ethnography” that explored the patient's own interpretation of illness experience. Without training, however, many practitioners may struggle with this ethnographic approach (Aggarwal & Rohrbaugh, 2011). A key challenge for *DSM-5*, therefore, was to provide guidelines for a patient-centered assessment to address the topics

of the OCF without reducing the exercise to a formality. Explaining the rationale and providing sample questions for each OCF domain aimed to strike a balance between explicit direction and flexibility for application in diverse settings.

### Research Results from Use of the OCF

Most work on the OCF has consisted of case studies published in the journals *Culture, Medicine, and Psychiatry* and *Trans-cultural Psychiatry*. The most extensive literature beyond case studies comes from a cultural consultation service (CCS) at McGill University which makes systematic use of an expanded version of the OCF as an interview guide for cultural consultants assisted by interpreters and culture brokers as needed. Findings from the use of this interview are discussed in a multidisciplinary case conference to develop a cultural formulation. In a study of 100 consecutive patients seen through the CCS, Kirmayer and colleagues (2003) demonstrated common cultural misunderstandings in practice, such as incomplete assessments, missing or incorrect diagnoses, failed rapport, poor adherence, and inappropriate treatment. Sixty consultants and culture brokers on this service were administered a survey inquiring about their use of the *DSM-IV* OCF and the CCS version; many were unfamiliar with the *DSM-IV* tool or had not used it before, but fully 93% found the expanded OCF interview to be useful (Kirmayer, Thombs et al., 2008c). In a retrospective chart review of 323 patients seen through the CCS across 10 years, 34 (49%) of 70 cases with a referral diagnosis of psychotic disorder were re-diagnosed as non-psychotic after OCF-based assessment, and 12 (5%) of 253 cases with referral diagnoses of non-psychotic disorders were re-diagnosed with a psychotic disorder ( $p < .001$ ) (Adeponle et al., 2012). Many of the patients misdiagnosed with a psychotic disorder were immigrants or refugees suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder, adjustment disorder, and other stress-related conditions. Re-diagnosis from a psychotic to non-psychotic disorder was significantly associated with recent arrival to Canada (odds ratio [OR] = 6.05, 95% confidence interval [CI] = 1.56, 23.46), being nonblack (OR = 3.72 [1.03, 13.41]), and referral from non-medical sources (such as social work or occupational therapy) (OR = 3.23 [1.03, 10.13]). The CCS has published a text on cultural consultation which summarizes work with over 400 cases, with data indicating that the use of cultural formulation led to re-diagnosis in about 60% of referrals overall (Kirmayer, Guzder, & Rousseau, 2014).

Similarly, a group in the Netherlands examined differences in psychotic diagnoses for patients of Moroccan origin using an OCF-inspired interview. Zandi and colleagues (2008) adapted the Comprehensive Assessment of Symptoms and History (CASH)—a semi-structured diagnostic interview for evaluating schizophrenia and related disorders (Andreasen, Flaum, & Arndt, 1992)—into a culturally revised version (CASH-CS) by adding explanatory probes and diagnostic decision rules in order to assess whether presenting symptoms were due to non-psychotic idioms of distress or to psychotic disorder. Agreement on the presence or absence of psychotic disorder in 29 Moroccan-origin patients was calculated separately for each version of the CASH against independent clinical diagnoses according to Moroccan psychiatrists. Correspondence between clinical diagnoses and the CASH-CS (93% diagnostic agreement; kappa = .79 [ $SD = .11$ ]) was higher than the CASH (48%; kappa = -.49 [ $.16$ ]), suggesting that this OCF-based approach increased the validity of a standardized diagnostic instrument (Zandi et al., 2008). In another study of 26

Dutch and 26 Moroccan patients evaluated 30 months after referral for first-episode psychosis, diagnostic stability with the CASH was high for native Dutch (92%), but low for Moroccans (27%), whereas diagnostic stability with the CASH-CS was high for both groups (85% and 81%, respectively) (Zandi et al., 2011). These data suggest that attention to culture can substantially improve diagnostic accuracy and reduce the over-diagnosis of psychosis among ethnocultural minorities: age- and gender-adjusted relative risk for first-episode schizophrenia among Moroccan immigrants compared to native Dutch was 7.8 (4.0–15.2) based on the CASH, but 1.5 (0.5–4.3) based on the CASH-CS (Zandi et al., 2010).

Case series also demonstrate the clinical utility of the OCF. The largest case series comes from Spain (Caballero, 2008): 75 patients were assessed with the OCF by physicians. The Outline was used with people from Spain, Africa, Europe, South America, and Asia, resulting in subjective clinician reports of improved communication, reduced diagnostic and treatment errors, and clarification of cultural aspects of transference and countertransference. The OCF-based assessment also had limitations: clinicians found that it consumed too much time, repeated questions from the standard assessment, lacked guidance on how to elicit cultural information, and did not suggest ways to integrate cultural information within psychiatric formulation. In another case series, an outpatient clinic in Sweden specializing in substance abuse treatment conducted a cultural analysis of 20 consecutively admitted women through the OCF, revealing the centrality in this local context of cultural constructions of gender in patterning drinking behaviors, treatment expectations, and emotional reactions to alcohol consumption (DeMarinis, Scheffel-Birath, & Hansagi, 2009). A group of cultural psychiatrists and medical anthropologists in the Netherlands (Borra, van Dijk, & Rohlof, 2002; Rohlof et al., 2009) independently documented improvements in diagnosis using the OCF in 17 patients of Middle Eastern or South Asian origin and two native Dutch patients. They warned against mechanistic application of the OCF without attending to multiple facets of identity, mismatched treatment expectations between patients and clinicians, and the impact of current predicaments that can be confused for enduring cultural traits, such as difficulties navigating refugees' political status. In a study of four Native American children, the OCF clarified the relationship of cultural identity to development across the lifespan, psychosocial environments, and treatment settings, although the OCF needed adaptation for children (Novins et al., 1997). Other case compilations have also documented the OCF's diagnostic utility and improvement of clinical outcomes (Caballero & Lewis-Fernández, 2008; Group for the Advancement of Psychiatry, 2001; Mezzich & Caracci, 2008), although systematic research on treatment outcomes is limited.

### Revisions to the Content of the OCF Operationalized in the CFI

This section summarizes work on each OCF domain and its operationalization prior to *DSM-5* (Table 1). Subsequently, we review implementation questions. Key themes and implications for *DSM-5* are summarized in Table 3. In line with recent theories on the implementation and dissemination of health interventions (Gearing et al., 2011), we consider implications for *DSM-5* unique to the intervention (CFI) separately from the service settings in which the intervention would be implemented.

## Key Themes Related to the CFI as an Intervention

*Cultural Identity of the Individual.* Cultural psychiatrists regard understanding a patient's identity as indispensable to evaluation. Early guidelines (Lu et al., 1995) suggested assessing cultural identity through an “interpersonal grid” (p. 483) documenting ethnicity, race, geographical origin, language, acculturation, gender, age, sexual orientation, religious or spiritual beliefs, socioeconomic class, and education. This entails enquiring about these aspects of identity directly, to avoid stereotyping patients or simplifying sociocultural phenomena based on a clinician's determination of the patient's identity (Lewis-Fernández, 1996). Many clinicians advocate for a comprehensive approach that accounts for how a person's cultural identity can change with context (e.g., with family members compared to with strangers from a different ethnicity), including the patient's perception of the clinician's identity (Aggarwal, 2012a; Lim & Lin, 1996; Starkey et al., 2008; Yilmaz & Weiss, 2000). Moreover, this assessment should help the clinician consider how identity, distress, stigma, and language influence symptom expression and interpretation (Acharya, 2009).

The need for guidance on exploring identity in the OCF was underscored by the observation that psychiatric trainees felt uncomfortable probing this aspect of a patient's history (Aggarwal & Rohrbaugh, 2011). Table 1 lists aspects of cultural identity included in various questionnaires, protocols, and interviews that have operationalized the OCF prior to the CFI. Certain aspects were included in nearly all instruments, including: determining the cultural groups with which the patient identifies; establishing the importance and meaning ascribed by the patient and his/her family to this identification; assessing language use, including by developmental period and setting; and determining the patient's involvement with the cultures of origin and settlement for immigrants, including both positive and negative experiences.

Aspects of identity in some instruments whose importance was confirmed by the *DSM-5* literature reviews included evaluating experiences of multiple identities and how identity impacts on the clinical problem. Several instruments included a detailed migration history. The Intercultural Interview from the UK guides clinicians to inquire about the origin and meaning of a patient's name and to explore the significance of the clinician's own identity for the patient (Jadhav, 2010a, 2010b). This *inter-cultural* approach emphasizes the *exchange* of cultural journeys (e.g., geographic dislocations and cultural displacements) between the clinician and patient. The process aims to promote a more empathic understanding of the patient's identity and a more accurate assessment of psychopathology compared to a standard evaluation (Jadhav et al., 2009).

All of these instruments use open-ended questions to encourage exploration, rather than a checklist for aspects or dimensions of cultural identity. This approach deters the “culturalization” of contextual factors, whereby social processes—such as adverse experiences associated with migration and discrimination—are misunderstood as traits or characteristics of individuals or groups rather than as responses to social contexts or predicaments shaped by social and health institutions (e.g., asylum-seeking process for refugees) (Jenks, 2011; Santiago-Irizarry, 1996).

Assessment of cultural identity may involve challenges for particular populations. Refugees may be suspicious of questions about identity, and many migrants may not know how to describe or discuss their identities with clinicians unfamiliar with their geographic, political, and historical backgrounds (Rohlf et al., 2009). Children and adolescents may have different identities than their parents depending on mixed parentage, adoption (Novins et al., 1997; Rousseau, Measham, & Bathiche-Suidan, 2009), and acculturation as a result of migration (Aggarwal, 2010a). The identity of older patients may be shaped by cultural meanings of old age based on social roles and status (Aggarwal, 2010b). Cultural identity should be explored with reference to context, the recognition of multiple strands or hybridity, and the possibility of change over time.

**Cultural Explanations of the Individual's Illness**—Patient-centered, ethnographic approaches to history taking guide this research tradition in cultural psychiatry. Medical anthropologists have developed methods for eliciting and analyzing patients' explanatory models of illness, which may include experiences and ideas about onset, causes, mechanisms, course, and treatment expectations (Kleinman, 1980). Efforts to systematize this process include the Explanatory Model Interview Catalogue (EMIC), a research tool that allows both qualitative and quantitative analysis of explanatory model narratives (Weiss, 2001). Although developed as a research instrument, experience with the EMIC has influenced the development of clinical tools, including the Short Explanatory Model Interview (Lloyd et al., 1998).

While Kleinman's initial description of explanatory models emphasized information about causality, mechanisms, and anticipated outcomes, patients' narrations of illness may adopt other forms (Kirmayer, Young, Robbins, 1994). Ethnographic fieldwork has shown that, in addition to everyday explanatory accounts of illness, patients may also use *chain complexes* or sequences of events that occurred in temporal and spatial proximity (linked by contiguity or metonymy) and *illness prototypes*, illness episodes that provide examples used to reason about one's experience (Young, 1981, 1982). Patients may think metaphorically without indicating explicit causal models or attributions (Hinton, Franz, Yeo, & Levkoff, 2005; Jadhav, 2001b; Young, 1981). These findings informed the McGill Illness Narrative Interview (MINI; Groleau et al., 2006), a semi-structured interview designed to obtain illness narratives based on: (a) contiguity of events, (b) cultural prototypes of the illness for the patient, and (c) explanatory models of illness. Attempts to code narratives of people with medically unexplained symptoms in the community elicited by the MINI revealed three types of explanatory narratives: *nominal*, in which a condition was named without a cause; *causal attributions*, in which a symptom or illness was linked to a cause; and *process or mechanism explanations*, in which mechanistic or metaphorical accounts of processes linked cause and symptom (Stern & Kirmayer, 2004). Illness models also change in response to context, including interviewer and location (Ghane, Kolk, & Emmelkamp, 2010; Jadhav, 2001b), interactions with family, community, or health care system (Kirmayer & Sartorius, 2007), during the adaptation or acculturation of immigrants to new cultural contexts (Bhugra, 2004; Karasz, 2005; McCabe & Priebe, 2004), and even over the span of a long interview, as trust is established and memories are evoked (Groleau & Kirmayer, 2004).

Further, culture also influences elicitation of illness models. Cultural norms affect patient communication with providers, family, and friends (Browne, 2001; Dinh & Groleau, 2008). Eliciting illness representations of the patient's family members, friends, or close associates can clarify the range of views influencing the illness experience (Kirmayer et al., 2014). The organization of health care services may also determine attitudes toward disease, diagnosis, and treatment (Annas & Miller, 1994; Jadhav & Barua, 2012).

Eliciting past and current expectations of care are important goals of this OCF section. Cultural schemas or scripts associate illness representations with specific types of self-coping and help seeking, including the perceived relevance and efficacy of mental health treatments (Al-Krenawi et al., 2009; Kung & Lu, 2008; Saint-Arnault & Shimabukuro, 2012). Cultural adaptations of treatment interventions incorporating cultural scripts may enhance patient engagement and outcomes (Griner & Smith, 2006; Kopelowicz et al., 2012), indicating the value of identifying cultural models and interpretations before treatment (Lewis-Fernández et al., 2013). Non-medical forms of self-coping and help seeking are common and merit clinical attention because they may complement or conflict with psychiatric care (Bhikha, Farooq, Chaudhry, & Husain, 2012; Brown et al., 2011; Zafar et al., 2008). Barriers to service utilization also reflect cultural priorities for care, family values and interactions, and local health system factors affecting access (Dejman et al., 2008; Jadhav & Barua, 2012; Knipscheer & Kleber, 2005).

Earlier OCF guidelines (Lu et al., 1995) included *culture-bound syndromes* in this section. In *DSM-5*, the term “culture-bound syndrome” has been replaced by three newer terms: *cultural syndromes*, *cultural idioms of distress*, and *cultural explanations* (APA, 2013). These terms denote how cultural modes of expressing or communicating distress may reflect specific symptom clusters (syndromes), common expressions for distress that may not involve specific symptoms (idioms), or involve explicit causal models or attributions. Patient clinical presentations may be influenced by these cultural concepts and modes of expression (Hinton & Lewis-Fernández, 2010; Kirmayer & Bhugra, 2009).

Comparing previously developed OCF instruments (Table 1) reveals that all include questions on illness-related idioms, symptom meaning (and usually severity) in relation to cultural norms, causes, expected course of illness, experiences with care, and treatment expectations. Nearly all approaches ask patients to describe the views of others in their social network to situate the patient's perspective in family and community context. Other questions related to illness models and experience highlighted by the literature review include those on how the patient describes the problem to his/her social network, the most troubling aspect of the problem, the contribution of prototypes to the patient's understanding of the illness, the most useful treatment received, the treatment recommendations of the social network, and the patient's use of healers and alternative services.

**Cultural Factors Related to Psychosocial Environment and Levels of Functioning**—The OCF directs clinicians to clarify cultural interpretations of the stressors and supports associated with a patient's illness, and fears and hopes affecting levels of functioning. Instruments (Table 1) have used open-ended questions to obtain a richer picture of these topics. The goal is a description of the context in which the illness emerged and the

current situation through the perspectives of the patient and others close to him or her. The subjective aspect (“lived experience”) of the patient's and social network's response is important because interpretation is strongly influenced by culture and shapes the perceived centrality, magnitude, and tractability of the problem (Bäärnhielm & Scarpinati Rosso, 2009; Lazarus, 1999) as well as potential supports (Poulin et al., 2012; Snowden, 2007). During assessment, the person's subjective experience is interpreted through the clinician's analysis of the social and cultural context. A subjective-objective approach develops a functional assessment of activities of daily living that includes the interpretations of patients and their social networks in relation to cultural norms of functioning (Qureshi, Collazos, & Ramos, 2013).

Ethnocultural minorities and racialized groups may face distinctive stressors associated with their social status. Migration status is a potent social determinant of health for refugees independent of pre-migratory trauma (Kirmayer et al., 2011; Porter, 2007; Porter & Haslam, 2005; Steel et al., 2009). Factors most associated with risk for psychopathology include low socioeconomic status, poor housing, unemployment or under-employment, lack of residency, linguistic barriers, limited social networks, discrimination, role strain, family conflict, status loss, acculturative stress, nostalgia, and bicultural tension (Bhugra, 2004; Finch & Vega, 2003; Hovey & Magaña, 2002; Tartakovsky, 2007). Discrimination affects various social groups, such as religious minorities, lesbian-gay-bisexual-transgender persons, and low socioeconomic status and disability communities (Bogart et al., 2011; McLaughlin, Hatzenbuehler, & Keyes, 2010; Rousseau et al., 2011), whose subjective experience of stress and coping should be assessed. Specific questions may need adaptation for the discriminated group, social position, and the individual predicament of the patient.

To adequately assess social stressors and supports, an operationalized OCF needs to obtain collateral information from the patient's social network (Mezzich et al., 2009); this is important for all patients but is especially so for children and adolescents (Novins et al., 1997; Rousseau et al., 2009) and older adults (Aggarwal, 2010a; Hinton et al., 2006). Similarly, there is a need for guidance on obtaining information through medical interpreters and culture brokers (Leanza, Miklavcic, Boivin, & Rosenberg, 2013; Mezzich et al., 2009; Rohlf et al., 2009).

Finally, any assessment of help seeking must consider the fact that patients often turn to religion, spirituality, and moral traditions to understand and respond to mental illness (Whitley, 2012a). There is a “religiosity gap” between clinicians trained in positivistic scientific methods who may disparage religion and patients who search for holistic treatments and are invested in religious beliefs and practices (Lukoff, Turner, & Lu, 1992). Cultural assessment thus should attend to the meanings associated with religion in illness experience, especially when a religious community provides support (Whitley, 2012b). Such information can help to mobilize support that contributes to recovery.

The existing OCF instruments (Table 1) assess stressors, supports, and levels of functioning in different ways. Alternatives include focusing on the impact of stressors on the patient, the views of the social network, the role of the person's partner and/or of spiritual support,

barriers to receiving help, and the views of the social network on resulting levels of functioning.

### **Cultural Elements of the Relationship Between the Individual and the Clinician**

—Many OCF case studies illustrated challenges in providing cross-cultural care. These included tensions between biomedical treatment and other forms of healing (Barrett, 1997), the failure of health systems to provide interpreters (Bucardo, Patterson, & Jeste, 2008), and difficulties in communication (Yilmaz & Weiss, 2000). In several studies (Groen, 2009a; Moldavsky, 2003; Shaffer & Steiner, 2006), clinicians discussed tensions in considering the patient individually and as part of a social group. Despite the clinicians' best efforts, the medical encounter may be influenced by stereotyping, discrimination, racism, and subtle forms of bias (Jadhav, 2001a; Whaley, 2001). This domain of the OCF provides an opportunity to consider how these experiences affect patients' perceptions of care through clinician self-reflection.

Existing instruments address this domain differently (Table 1). Some focus on the clinician, providing queries to consider rather than questions addressed to the patient. The Montreal CCS interview (Kirmayer et al., 2001; Kirmayer, Thombs et al., 2008c) includes questions on the mutual perceptions of power and positioning of the patient and clinician, including historical relations between their respective cultural groups. This operationalizes the concepts of “cultural transference” and “cultural countertransference” to analyze patient-physician relationships (Comas-Díaz & Jacobsen, 1991; Kir-mayer, Rousseau et al., 2008b; Mezzich et al., 2009). Other instruments suggest questions for the patient, including on the quality of communication, the need for interpreters, topics missed during the interview, the impact of cultural matching with the clinician, and the role of the patient. Although a sensitive topic, open inquiry into negative experiences of care and potential miscommunications early in care (e.g., during intake) may facilitate rapport and engagement because it conveys a commitment to overcome treatment barriers and may allow a corrective experience of “cultural humility” (Tervalon & Murray-García, 1998).

### **Key Themes Related to the Implementation of the CFI**

**Contexts of Use**—Obstacles to wider use of the OCF have included the lack of detail on when, where, and how it should be used, that is, for which patients, for what purposes, by which staff members, and at which point in the course of clinical care (Cuéllar & Paniagua, 2000). More attention is needed to clarify the role of the OCF in ongoing treatment beyond the initial evaluation (Lewis-Fernández, 2009). Jadhav (2010a, 2010b) recommends using the OCF to engage all patients. Kirmayer and colleagues (2003, 2014) advocate its use in specialized clinical consultations for patients where cultural factors are complicating care. Others suggest reserving it for patients whose presentation includes cultural content unfamiliar to the clinician (Caballero, 2009). Whereas most published case studies feature patients from cultural backgrounds unfamiliar to the treating clinician such as immigrants or ethnic minorities, some also include reports of culturally similar patients and clinicians, indicating how the OCF may clarify intra-cultural issues (Aggarwal, 2012a; Rohloff, Groen, van Dijk, & Starmans, 2010).

Guidance is also needed on the clinical training and skills needed to conduct cultural assessment and produce a cultural formulation. In most published case reports, the treating clinician was the interviewer. However, the OCF may also be used by adjunctive personnel, such as a culture broker or anthropologist (Dinh & Groleau, 2008; Groen, 2009a; Kirmayer, Thombs et al., 2008c; Miklavcic & Leblanc, 2014; Rohlf et al., 2009) to integrate OCF data with routine clinical findings. In Montreal's CCS, the perceived utility of the OCF did not differ between clinicians and non-clinicians (e.g., culture brokers), though psychologists found it more useful than did physicians (Kirmayer, Thombs et al., 2008c). Dinh and colleagues (2012) showed that the OCF changed dynamics of a multidisciplinary group by increasing the participation of non-medical professionals who could contribute to understanding the patient's social world. Assigning this task of cultural assessment to specialized personnel may enhance the cultural information gathered, but deprive treating clinicians of interacting with the patient directly.

Views differ about whether or not OCF-based questions should be integrated into routine clinical assessment. Some authors suggest that the assessing clinician could incorporate portions of the OCF into the clinical evaluation, for example, by including questions in the domain of *Cultural Explanations of the Individual's Illness* in assessment of the history of present illness (Aggarwal, 2012b; Caballero, 2009; Jadhav, 2010a). This approach may encourage attention to this aspect of the OCF without a full interview for every patient. To ensure comprehensive assessment of complex cases, the McGill CCS conducts a combined clinical-cultural assessment over 1–3 visits that includes the patient as well as key people in his or her social network (Kirmayer et al., 2003). Other clinicians in refugee clinics in Sweden and the Netherlands conduct supplementary interviews after the intake assessment (Bäärnhielm & Scarpinati Rosso, 2009; Rohlf et al., 2009).

Although cultural formulation is potentially relevant and useful for any patient, the *DSM-5* DCCIS identified five main situations when assessment of cultural factors may be especially relevant for patient care: (1) difficulties in diagnostic assessment based on the clinician's unfamiliarity with the patient's culture; (2) uncertainty about how diagnostic criteria fit with the patient's symptoms; (3) difficulties in judging illness severity or impairment; (4) disagreements between the patient and clinician about the course of care; and (5) limited treatment adherence and engagement from the patient (APA, 2013). Future work may identify other situations when the CFI can be useful.

**Length and Content**—The length of the various OCF interviews, questionnaires, and protocols listed in Table 1 varies from 30 to 90 minutes. The dilemma is how to balance brevity with sufficient depth. Kirmayer, Thombs and colleagues (2008c) found that 27% of clinicians on the CCS felt the interview failed to assess important information and 30% found it too lengthy.

The literature is divided on which section(s) could be shortened or eliminated. A study of patients referred for cultural consultation found that the domain of *Cultural Explanations of the Individual's Illness* contributed less to final formulations than did other domains, perhaps because patients have several concurrent models of illness and are reluctant to offer views that diverge from what they believe the clinician expects (Kirmayer et al., 2003), a finding

replicated elsewhere (Bäärnhielm & Scarpinati Rosso, 2009; Groleau et al., 2006). Nonetheless, in some cases this domain may yield crucial information, and these authors do not recommend eliminating this section. Similarly, Rohlof and colleagues (2009) suggested that the domain of Cultural Elements of the Relationship Between the Individual and the Clinician be subsumed elsewhere. Others supported an elaboration of this section to establish rapport, promote engagement, and uncover information around Cultural Factors Related to Psychosocial Environment and Levels of Functioning, such as discrimination and acculturation (Jadhav, 2010a, 2010b). These differing suggestions may reflect the diverse clinical settings and cultural contexts in which the OCF has been used and suggest the need for flexible application in both the order of presentation and depth of elaboration.

**Training**—Developing a standard training protocol is a necessary step in the large-scale implementation of any intervention, including assessment interviews like the CFI (Rounsaville, Carroll, & Onken, 2001). Typically, a training protocol consists of reviewing written guidelines with clinicians and answering any questions, observing the intervention through a video demonstration, and practicing the intervention through case-based simulations (Carroll, Martino, & Rounsaville, 2010). Live supervision or review of videotaped interviews can be used to ensure that trainees are able to apply the interview protocol as intended. As measurement-based care becomes more widespread, CFI implementation will likely be assessed through instruments that rate fidelity of use after training (Gearing et al., 2011).

The *DSM-5* CFI has several of the components needed to develop a standard training protocol. The sample interview questions are accompanied by guidelines indicating the rationale and goal for each item that can be reviewed by clinicians. Case simulations like those developed for the *DSM-5* field trial of the CFI can be prepared for trainees, with examples chosen to reflect the types of setting in which they work. A training video (in collaboration with the New York State public mental health system) and a handbook for the use of the CFI are currently in preparation and will include video vignettes illustrating application of the interview. The Psychiatry Milestone Project, a joint endeavor from the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) and the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology, requires psychiatry residents to evaluate cultural factors in psychiatric formulation and differential diagnosis, patient development across the lifespan, knowledge of psychopathology, and clinical ethics (ACGME, 2013). The CFI may address these needs, though future work could investigate the reception of CFI training by residency directors, course leaders, and trainees; the challenges of including the CFI within the curriculum; and the extent to which trainees use the CFI after graduation. The development of training videos and evaluation materials would help residency directors and service administrators assess clinician skill in using the CFI (Aggarwal et al., in press). Training models in cultural psychiatry aimed at medical students and residents illustrate how to teach the OCF, including didactic review and journal club discussion of OCF domains, case illustration by preceptors, and supervised case formulation and class presentations by trainees. These approaches are sometimes combined with experiential learning (e.g., community visits), cultural self-reflection exercises, and basic ethnographic techniques (e.g., simple field notes), especially by preceptors cross-trained in the social sciences (Hansen et

al., 2013; Kirmayer, Rousseau et al., 2008a; Kirmayer et al., 2012). These OCF-focused methods may help guide CFI training.

## CONCLUSION

With the development of the CFI, *DSM-5* has greatly expanded the considerations of culture and context introduced in *DSM-IV*. The Outline for Cultural Formulation in *DSM-IV* generated substantial international interest as a potential way of improving the cultural validity of diagnosis and treatment planning. Experience with the OCF guided development of the semi-structured CFI, which was tested in an APA-supported field trial at 12 clinical sites in six countries. The literature reviews conducted for *DSM-5* and the experience of the *DSM-5* Cross-Cultural Issues Subgroup supported the value of the OCF framework and guided the design of the CFI as a tool for facilitating cultural aspects of assessment and treatment planning in clinical practice.

By providing a clear and concise approach to cultural assessment and treatment planning, the CFI will allow us to address some basic questions in psychiatry. To what extent does a culturally oriented interview change important aspects of care, including diagnosis, treatment planning, and patient satisfaction and adherence? Can patient engagement be enhanced through personalized forms of clinical negotiation and exchange of clinician-patient perspectives through the CFI? Does a brief standardized interview such as the core CFI actually help clinicians assess culture and context? Will the telescoping structure of the *DSM-5* core CFI, informant version, and supplementary modules enable clinicians to choose the desired level of assessment for each clinical situation? Will a set of interviews facilitate dissemination and implementation of cultural assessment and treatment planning beyond what was achieved with the *DSM-IV* Outline for Cultural Formulation? We hope that research and clinical experience with the CFI will answer many of these questions in the years to come.

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TABLE 1

Inclusion of OCF Domains in Question Lists, Assessment Protocols, and Semi-Structured Clinical Interviews Prior to the CFI

|   | Canada <sup>a</sup> | Netherlands <sup>b</sup> | Sweden <sup>c</sup> | United States <sup>d</sup> | United Kingdom <sup>f</sup> | Denmark <sup>g</sup> |
|---|---------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| <b>Cultural Identity</b>  |                     |                          |                     |                            |                             |                      |
| Cultural reference group(s)   |                     |                          |                     |                            |                             |                      |
| Patient's and key relatives' cultural identifications (e.g., ethnic, religious, national)       |                     |                          |                     |                            |                             |                      |
| Cultural identity of key members of social network (e.g., parents, relatives, friends)          |                     |                          |                     |                            |                             |                      |
| Importance or meaning to patient/family of cultural identification                              |                     |                          |                     |                            |                             |                      |
| Perceptions of patient's identity by others   |                     |                          |                     |                            |                             |                      |
| Experience of multiple identities and/or changes of identity over time                          |                     | *                        |                     |                            |                             |                      |
| Relationship of cultural identity factor(s) to presenting problem                               |                     |                          |                     |                            |                             |                      |
| Characteristics of culture of origin and differences from host culture                          |                     |                          |                     |                            |                             |                      |
| Language  |                     |                          |                     |                            |                             |                      |
| Language use by developmental period and setting (e.g., at home, in healthcare)                 |                     |                          |                     |                            |                             |                      |
| Language(s) in which patient is literate  |                     |                          |                     |                            |                             |                      |
| Perceived fluency in language of host culture   |                     |                          |                     |                            |                             |                      |
| Cultural factors in development   |                     |                          |                     |                            |                             |                      |
| Involvement with culture of origin (e.g., country of origin, migrants from same origin)         |                     |                          |                     |                            |                             |                      |
| Importance/frequency of involvement to patient  |                     |                          |                     |                            |                             |                      |
| Perceptions of culture of origin  |                     | *                        |                     |                            |                             |                      |
| Elements of culture of origin that are missed/relieved to have left                             |                     | *                        |                     |                            |                             |                      |
| Involvement with host culture (e.g., peers, food, news)   |                     |                          |                     |                            |                             |                      |
| Perceptions of host culture (e.g., racism, values relative to culture of origin, opportunities) |                     |                          |                     |                            |                             |                      |
| Relationship of engagement with host culture to presenting problem                              |                     |                          |                     |                            |                             |                      |
| Migration history (e.g., reasons, route, journey experience, hopes, people left behind)         |                     |                          |                     |                            |                             | <i>h</i>             |
| <b>Cultural Explanations of the Individual's Illness</b>  |                     |                          |                     |                            |                             |                      |
| Predominant idioms of distress and illness categories, including illness/ problem label         |                     |                          |                     |                            |                             |                      |
| How patient describes problem to social network   |                     |                          |                     |                            |                             |                      |
| How social network/culture of origin describes problem  |                     |                          |                     |                            |                             |                      |
| Most troubling aspect of problem to patient   |                     |                          |                     |                            |                             |                      |
| Meaning and severity of symptoms in relation to cultural norms                                  |                     |                          |                     |                            |                             |                      |

|   | Canada <sup>a</sup> | Netherlands <sup>b</sup> | Sweden <sup>c</sup> | United States <sup>d</sup> | United Kingdom <sup>e</sup> | Denmark <sup>g</sup> |
|---|---------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| Patient's views (e.g., of severity)   |                     |                          |                     |                            |                             |                      |
| Views of social network   |                     |                          |                     |                            |                             |                      |
| In relation to norms of host culture (e.g., clinicians)   |                     |                          |                     |                            |                             |                      |
| Impact on patient's life/biggest fear   |                     |                          |                     |                            |                             |                      |
| Perceived causes and explanatory models (e.g., illness mechanism[s], course, expected outcomes) |                     |                          |                     |                            |                             | <i>h</i>             |
| Views of social network (e.g., of causes)   |                     | *                        |                     |                            |                             |                      |
| Prototypes (e.g., knowledge of anyone with same problem)  |                     |                          |                     |                            |                             |                      |
| Treatment expectations (e.g., preferred treatment, concerns)                                    |                     | *                        |                     |                            |                             |                      |
| Help-seeking experiences and plans  |                     |                          |                     |                            |                             |                      |
| Treatments sought or planned in formal healthcare system  |                     | *                        |                     |                            |                             |                      |
| Most useful treatment received  |                     |                          |                     |                            |                             |                      |
| Help/treatment recommended in country of origin/by social network                               |                     | *                        |                     |                            |                             |                      |
| Use of traditional healers and alternative services   |                     | *                        |                     |                            |                             |                      |
| <b>Cultural Factors Related to Psychosocial Environment and Levels of Functioning</b>           |                     |                          |                     |                            |                             |                      |
| Social stressors in relation to cultural norms  |                     | *                        |                     |                            |                             |                      |
| Social network's perception of stressors  |                     |                          |                     |                            |                             |                      |
| Impact on patient   |                     |                          |                     |                            |                             |                      |
| Relationship with partner   |                     |                          |                     |                            |                             |                      |
| Social supports in relation to cultural norms   |                     |                          |                     |                            |                             |                      |
| Role of religious/spiritual supports (e.g., prayer)   |                     |                          |                     |                            |                             |                      |
| Barriers to receiving supports  |                     |                          |                     |                            |                             |                      |
| Levels of functioning and disability in relation to cultural norms                              |                     |                          |                     |                            |                             |                      |
| Views of social network and culture of origin on levels of functioning/disability               |                     |                          |                     |                            |                             |                      |
| <b>Cultural Elements of the Relationship Between the Individual and the Clinician</b>           |                     |                          |                     |                            |                             |                      |
| Patient's views of the relationship   |                     |                          |                     |                            |                             |                      |
| Experience of quality of communication/language use during interview                            |                     | *                        |                     |                            |                             |                      |
| Important topics not covered  |                     | *                        |                     |                            |                             |                      |
| Perception of own role during interview (e.g., should I ask questions?)                         |                     |                          |                     |                            |                             |                      |
| Importance to patient of match with clinician (e.g., gender, faith)                             |                     |                          |                     |                            |                             |                      |
| Clinician's views of the relationship   |                     | *                        |                     |                            |                             |                      |
| Experience of quality of communication/language use during interview                            |                     | *                        |                     |                            |                             |                      |

|   | Canada <sup>a</sup> | Netherlands <sup>b</sup> | Sweden <sup>c</sup> | United States <sup>d</sup> | United Kingdom <sup>f</sup> | Denmark <sup>g</sup> |
|---|---------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| Awareness of own culture/historical relationships of patient and clinician cultures of origin     |                     |                          |                     |                            |                             |                      |
| Impact of intercultural differences/similarities (e.g., on diagnosis, engagement, treatment plan) |                     | *                        |                     |                            |                             |                      |

Notes.

<sup>a</sup>Kirmayer et al., 2001 (available in English)

<sup>b</sup>Rohlf et al., 2002/Rohlf, 2008 (items included in abbreviated version by Groen, 2009b are noted with \*) (Dutch and English)

<sup>c</sup>Baarn-hielm et al., 2007, 2010a, 2010b (Swedish, English, Finnish, and Norwegian)

<sup>d</sup>Mezzich et al., 2009 (English); Jadhav et al., 2010a, 2010b (English)

<sup>f</sup>Osterskov, 2011 (Danish)

<sup>g</sup>Utilizes a map of the world to trace migration journey

<sup>h</sup>Utilizes a schema of the human body to trace mechanisms of illness/treatment.

**TABLE 2***DSM-5* Supplementary Modules to the Core Cultural Formulation Interview

| <b>Number</b> | <b>Module</b>                                |
|---------------|--|
| 1             | Explanatory model                            |
| 2             | Level of functioning                         |
| 3             | Social network                               |
| 4             | Psychosocial stressors                       |
| 5             | Spirituality, religion, and moral traditions |
| 6             | Cultural identity                            |
| 7             | Coping and help-seeking                      |
| 8             | Patient–clinician relationship               |
| 9             | School-age children and adolescents          |
| 10            | Older adults                                 |
| 11            | Immigrants and refugees                      |
| 12            | Caregivers                                   |

**TABLE 3**  
**Key Themes and Implications for DSM-5 Related to the Cultural Formulation Interview (CFI) and Its Clinical Implementation**

| The CFI as an Intervention   |   |
|--|---|
| OCF Domain   | Key Themes  |
| Cultural identity of the individual  | <p>Patients' cultural identities should be assessed directly—rather than assigned by the clinician—including asking about how these change with context</p> <p>Key aspects of identity from previous OCF instruments include: patient's multiple cultural identifications, their meaning for the patient and the social network, language use, relationship of identity with presenting problem, and immigrants' separate involvement with culture of origin and host culture</p> <p>Assessment of identity presents particular challenges for specific groups (e.g., youth, older adults, refugees)</p>  |
| Cultural explanations of the individual's illness                              | <p>Patients' narrations of illness present diversely, as logical explanations or as more metaphorical accounts, and may change with context</p> <p>Eliciting the views of patients' friends and family may clarify which illness models are most relevant to care</p> <p>Culture also affects patients' communication styles, engagement expectations, and preferences for care</p> <p>Previous OCF operationalizations inquire about illness idioms, symptom meaning and perceived severity, causes, course, past care, and treatment expectations, usually from both the patient and close associates</p>   |
| Cultural factors related to psychosocial environment and levels of functioning | <p>Assessment should combine patients' subjective experience of stressors, supports, and levels of functioning with clinicians' objective analysis of the social and cultural context</p> <p>Multiple social factors increase risk for psychopathology; diverse social groups face discrimination due to their devalued social status and should be assessed</p> <p>The impact of religion, spirituality, and moral traditions on coping is often neglected</p> <p>Previous OCF instruments prioritize impact of stressors on the patient, role of spiritual support, and the views of close associates</p>   |
| Cultural elements of the relationship between the individual and the clinician | <p>Facilitating clinician self-reflection via standardized questions on the clinician-patient relationship can help reduce unintended stereotyping and bias and increase rapport and engagement</p>   |
|  | <p><b>Implications for DSM-5</b></p> <p>The CFI includes open-ended questions that allow patients to narrate their own cultural identities</p> <p>Cultural identity is conceptualized broadly to include culture, race, ethnicity, gender, religion, language, geographical origin, and sexual orientation</p> <p>Inquiry about cultural identity is linked to its impact on the clinical problem, treatment choices, other aspects of care, and life problems in general</p> <p>Supplementary modules for this topic and by patient population can be used for detail</p> <p>The CFI uses open-ended questions to elicit illness models from patients and their close associates, allowing for exploration of all types of illness models</p> <p>Using patient illness terms as prompts may reveal cultural information and facilitate engagement</p> <p>Attention to past experiences of care and current treatment preferences can improve patient engagement</p> <p>Identifying potential barriers to care early in treatment may allow clinicians to address them</p> <p>Supplementary models allow greater exploration of illness models as needed</p> <p>The CFI follows the subjective-objective approach by emphasizing documentation of patient and clinician interpretations about social supports, stressors, and levels of functioning</p> <p>The CFI may be used with all patients, assessing experiences of diverse social groups</p> <p>Open-ended questions assess supports, stressors, and the most troubling aspect of the presenting problem</p> <p>Supplementary modules for informants, levels of functioning, psychosocial stressors, special patient populations, and religion/ spirituality/moral traditions can be used for detail</p> <p>The CFI inquires about previous experiences with racism and discrimination in clinical care</p> |

| <b>The CFI as an Intervention</b>               |   |
|---|---|
| <b>OCF Domain</b>                               | <b>Key Themes</b>   |
|   | <p>Previous OCF instruments address this topic through questions aimed at the clinician, the patient, or both</p> <p>Raising these sensitive issues early in care (e.g., during intake) may show willingness to overcome past treatment barriers in the current therapeutic relationship</p>  |
|   | <p>The CFI also focuses on barriers to treatment such as lack of resources or of culturally competent professionals or services that may impact the patient-clinician relationship</p> <p>The supplementary module contains additional questions for patients and clinicians to self-reflect on how their backgrounds and the health system affect care</p>   |
| <b>Implementing the CFI in Service Settings</b> |   |
| <b>Implementation Topic</b>                     | <b>Key Themes</b>   |
| Contexts of use                                 | <p>Best practice recommendations have varied as to when, where, and how to use the OCF (e.g., routine care with all patients vs. only for overcoming specific culture-related barriers)</p> <p>There are advantages and disadvantages to having clinicians themselves or adjunctive staff obtain information using the OCF</p>  |
| Length and content                              | <p>Length and content of previous OCF operationalizations have varied, reflecting the diverse clinical settings and cultural contexts of use</p>  |
| Training  | <p>Standardized training protocols are a necessary step in the large-scale implementation of the CFI</p> <p>CFI training approaches may be guided by past efforts focused on the OCF, including case supervision, class presentations of formulated cases, didactic review, and more advanced experiential, self-reflective, and ethnographic methods</p>   |
|   | <p>The CFI is designed to initiate the standard clinical intake</p> <p>The CFI can be used with all patients by all clinicians or adjunctive staff in all settings</p> <p>Special situations may be especially important for CFI use, as when clinicians are unfamiliar with the patient's culture or disagree with the patient's preferences and expectations of care</p> <p>To facilitate use, the core CFI consists of 16 questions for all patients</p> <p>Supplementary modules can be used to balance the level of cultural information needed with clinical constraints on time and priorities of the clinical setting</p> <p>The CFI has clear written guidelines for clinicians to follow during training</p> <p>A training video and an edited volume with video case vignettes are currently in preparation</p> <p>The CFI may respond to ACGME requirements for psychiatric residents and program directors to demonstrate cultural competence throughout different aspects of training</p> |