

## CHAPTER 17: NEURODEVELOPMENTAL DISORDERS CLINICAL ISSUES

### 17.2 SPECIFIC LEARNING DISABILITIES

- Do Specific Learning Disabilities require attention in an educational rather than a clinical setting?

### 17.3 INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES

- Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities have other strengths and limitations, and limitations need to be described in a way that enables suitable support to be developed and provided.
- Studies suggest that only around 15% of school children aged 13-15 years with IQ scores <70 are in receipt of a statement of special educational needs.
- What can be done to make the identification of the causes of Intellectual Disability easier to isolate and identify?
- Differential diagnosis between Specific Learning Disabilities and Intellectual Disabilities is often problematic.
- Blood tests and procedures such as amniocentesis can leave prospective parents with difficult decisions about whether to maintain a pregnancy if it is likely that their child will be born with Intellectual Disabilities. How should they be counselled to make this decision?
- What can clinicians do to try and ensure that factors such as social deprivation and poverty do not adversely affect the intellectual and behavioural development of a child?
- How can we improve ways of identifying physical abuse as the cause of developmental and intellectual disabilities in infants?
- How can clinicians contribute to family support programmes that may help mothers of low socio-economic status to raise their children more effectively?
- How can individuals with moderate to severe levels of intellectual disability be taught to use contraceptives, employ family planning, and even rear a family?

### 17.4 AUTISTIC SPECTRUM DISORDER

- What are the problems inherent in diagnosing autistic spectrum disorder?
- Will the change in diagnostic criteria for autistic spectrum disorder between DSM-IV-TR and DSM-5 mean that many individuals previously diagnosed with autism may now lose that status and fail to receive appropriate support?
- What kinds of problems are involved in interventions for people with autistic spectrum disorder and how can these problems be overcome?
- To what extent are the idiosyncratic social and communicative skills of individuals with high functioning autistic spectrum disorder an obstacle to them successfully undertaking employment?
- What are the problems associated with the use of medications in the treatment of autistic spectrum disorder?
- How important is it to train parents of autistic children to apply behavioural interventions at home?