



From the editor

## No such thing as schizophrenia?

**T**his issue of CURRENT PSYCHIATRY poses the question: “Does schizophrenia exist?” Isn’t it shocking that we are still asking this in 2006? After all, our specialty treats a sizable proportion of patients diagnosed with schizophrenia.

I have been trying to think of analogous questions other Dowden Health Media specialty journals might consider:

- Would *Contemporary Surgery* ask “Does appendicitis exist?”
- Would *The Journal of Family Practice* ask “Does the common cold exist?”
- Would *OBG Management* ask “Does pregnancy exist?” (Well, maybe our question about schizophrenia is not quite *that* extreme.)

C. Raymond Lake, MD, PhD, professor of psychiatry at the University of Kansas School of Medicine, and Nathaniel Hurwitz, MD, assistant professor of psychiatry at Yale University School of Medicine, make a strong case that psychiatrists frequently fail to recognize severe bipolar disorder by assuming that psychosis means schizophrenia. These authors then examine recent evidence that schizophrenia may not exist as an independent disorder (*page 42*).

Because Drs. Lake and Hurwitz acknowledge that their view is a minority opinion, we asked Henry A. Nasrallah, MD, editor of *Schizophrenia Research*, for his perspective. He argues persuasively for a fundamental distinction between schizophrenia and bipolar disorder (*page 67*).

Discussions such as this reinforce my belief that psychiatry continues to evolve as a medical specialty. What do you think? To voice your opinion, visit [www.currentpsychiatry.com](http://www.currentpsychiatry.com). We will publish selected letters in CURRENT PSYCHIATRY.

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