Advances in healthcare have led to an extended life expectancy throughout the developed world, but cognitive impairment in later life, and Alzheimer's disease (AD) in particular, remains one of the intractable problems which can blight quality of life as we age. Depression in Alzheimer's disease is an additional factor which has a significant impact on disability, disease progression, and caregiver burden.

This book, volume 4 of the Advances in Alzheimer's Disease book series which is published in coordination with the Journal of Alzheimer's Disease, presents papers which reflect the progress in recent years of research into depression in AD. This research has focused on several areas, including the improvement of diagnostic criteria and outcome measures for depression and depressive symptoms in AD, genetic and imaging studies to elucidate the neurobiological mechanisms, and clinical trials of antidepressants. The book is divided into sections on phenomenology, epidemiology, neuropsychology, neurobiology and neuropathology, neuroimaging, genetics, and treatment.

Providing a stimulus to further research in this challenging area by engaging both basic and clinical researchers, this book will be of interest to all those whose work involves understanding and dealing with depression in those suffering from Alzheimer's disease.

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Clinical and neuropathological correlates of depression in Alzheimer's disease. Psychological Medicine 22, 877–884. Fuchs, A., Hahnke, U., Erhart, C.H., Schell, C.H., Pramshohler, B. & Dan-ninger, B. (1993). Handbook of Psychooncology. Psychological Care of the Patient with Cancer. Oxford University Press: New York. The reference is a broad-ranging review of Alzheimer’s disease and other dementias from both basic and clinical neuroscience perspectives; it provides scientists and medical professionals with an extensive introduction and an up-to-date review of cutting-edge scientific advances. Brings the reader up-to-date with cutting-edge developments in this exciting and fast-paced field. Summarizes the most recent developments in the fields of Alzheimer’s disease and dementia. Brings together articles from a prominent and international group of contributors. Encompasses a unique range of topics Diagnosing depression with Alzheimer's disease. There is no single test or questionnaire to detect depression. Diagnosis requires a thorough evaluation by a medical professional, especially since side effects of medications and some medical conditions can produce similar symptoms. The most common treatment for depression in Alzheimer’s involves a combination of medicine, counseling, and gradual reconnection to activities and people that bring happiness. Simply telling the person with Alzheimer's to "cheer up," "snap out of it" or "try harder" is seldom helpful. Depressed people with or without Alzheimer's are rarely able to make themselves better by sheer will, or without lots of support, reassurance and professional help. Map out a plan to approach Alzheimer's.