Depression has become a major international health issue and should be a concern of every nurse, regardless of specialty. While physicians are focused on etiology and medical treatment, nurses must attend to how people express and deal with this crippling illness.

While there is evidence that depression is manifested differently by characteristics such as gender, race, and culture, we know very little about the mechanisms, both biological and socio-cultural, that create or contribute to these differences. The research included maintains an international perspective with a broad focus on special populations and multicultural groups.

Included are findings from studies on:
- Depression in individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities
- Maternal postpartum depression
- Older adults with depression
- Stress and depression after traumatic brain injury
- The impact of war stress on the health of Lebanese families