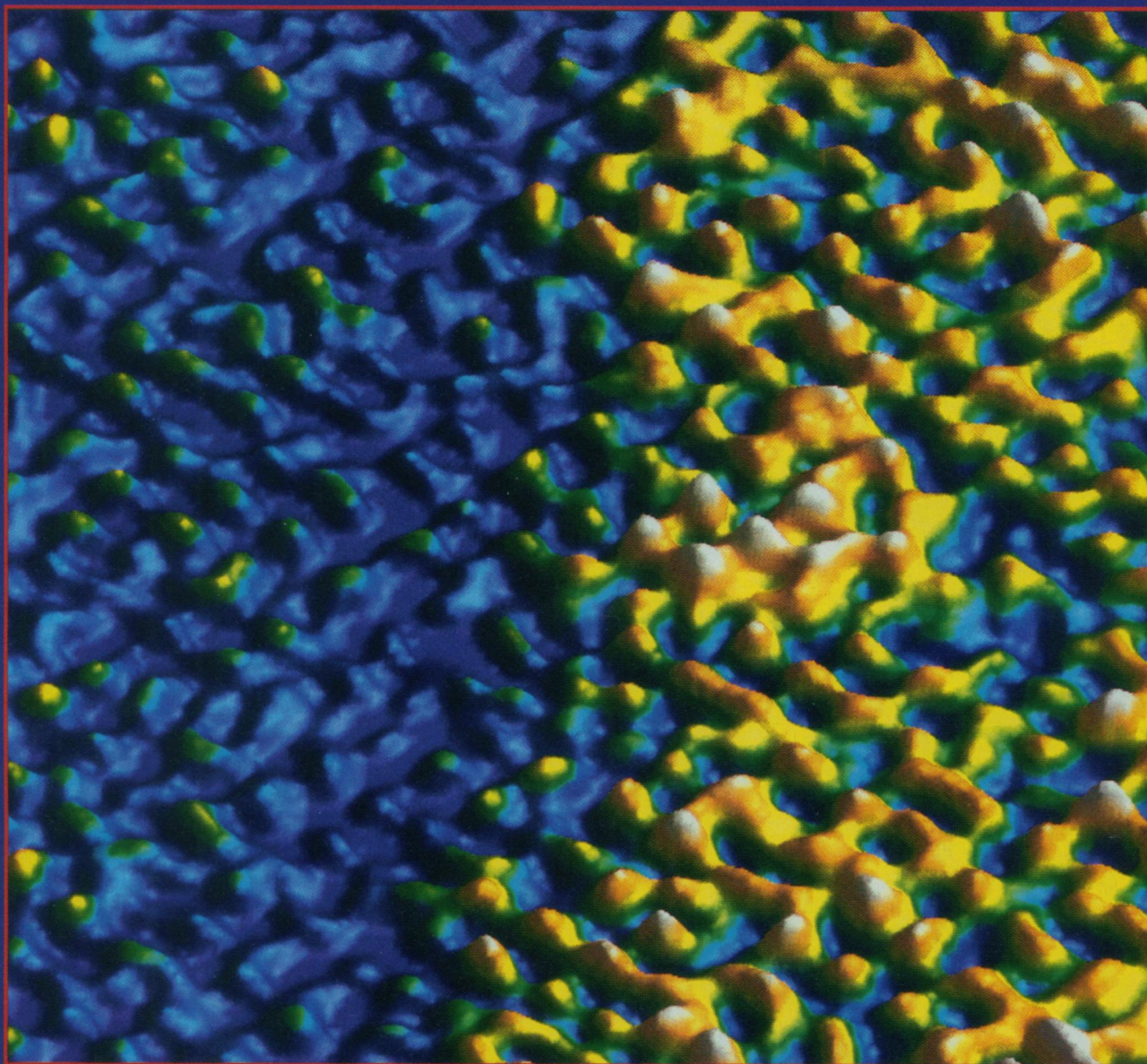


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PRACTICAL COUNSEL FROM
 AMERICA'S LEADING EXPERTS

Patricia Backlar

Introduction by Nancy C. Andreasen, M.D., Ph.D.

In this uniquely formatted book, Patricia Backlar, a mental health ethicist and mother of a son who suffers from schizophrenia, eloquently recounts true stories about families whose adult children suffer from this cruel disease. Following each narrative, experts from the various mental health professions offer advice on the issues raised by each story such as these:

- The story of a father's struggle to care for his son is followed by a psychiatrist's commentary, which sorts out the confusing array of public and private services available to mentally ill people and their families. The physician also explains the role of medications and how to obtain insurance benefits and financial assistance for treatment and living expenses;
- an account of a young man's suicide attempt is followed by a psychiatrist's commentary on why suicide is the main cause of death among victims of schizophrenia.

• the emotional report of a psychiatrist's murder by his patient is followed by an attorney's commentary on legal issues relating to mentally ill people.

These stories are not tales of easy answers; schizophrenia may be treatable, but to this day, it has no cure. However, this book offers hope because it teaches readers how to navigate the complicated labyrinth of medical and social services and to become more effective in managing schizophrenia.

—from *G.P. Putnam's Sons*