

**John Gunderson, PhD, United States
Harvard Medical School**



Biography

Dr. John Gunderson is a Professor of Psychiatry at Harvard Medical School and Director of McLean Hospital's Center's for Treatment, Training, and Research on Borderline Personality Disorder. His seminal studies on the diagnosis, families, psychodynamics, treatment and pathogenesis of borderline personality disorder helped transform the diagnosis from a psychoanalytic construct into an empirically validated and internationally recognized disorder. He chaired the DSM IV work group on personality disorders, and has recently completed two major NIMH-funded studies, one is the Collaborative Longitudinal Personality Disorders Study (CLPS) and the other is a study of the Family Transmission of Borderline Personality Disorder and its Phenotypes. He has been responsible for conceptualizing the borderline patient's core problem as interpersonal hypersensitivity, for pioneering collaborative involvement and compassionate attitudes towards their families, and for writing and revising the seminal and major textbook on their treatment. In honor of these achievements, in 2009 McLean Hospital opened a residential treatment center in Cambridge named the Gunderson Residence. Dr. Gunderson remains actively involved in treating borderline patients using all modalities and is drawing from this experience in writing a manual that will train professionals on how to be effective with these patients.