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Nota di contenuto	Part I. Social aspects of opioid use -- Chapter 1: A brief history of opioids and the evolution of concepts associated with substance use disorders -- Chapter 2: The two sides of opioid use: Unmet needs of opioids for pain management and the role of opioids in substance use disorders -- Chapter 3: Opioid markets and special populations -- Chapter 4: Towards a new drug policy agreement -- Chapter 5: The opioid crises -- Chapter 6: Persons who misuse opioids -- Chapter 7: The need for structural interventions for persons who misuse opioids -- Part II. Pharmacological and medical aspects of opioid use -- Chapter 8: Opioid effects and classification -- Chapter 9: Opioid receptors and neuronal signal transduction -- Chapter 10: Opioids in Pain -- Chapter 11: Opioids in Palliative Care -- Chapter 12: Opioids and the immune system -- Chapter 13: Opioid dependence, tolerance, and withdrawal -- Chapter 14: Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) 1: Opioid substitution therapy -- Chapter 15: Medication-Assisted

Sommario/riassunto

Opioids are the mainstay in pain treatment and can be invaluable medications in palliative care. However, they are also responsible for the vast majority of preventable deaths related to drug use. This book presents an overview of the social and pharmacological aspects of opioid effects, aiming to provide researchers and health professionals with a firm understanding of their effects and mechanisms of action. The first section reviews the history of opioids from ancient civilizations to the current opioid crisis, gives voice to opioid users through first-hand testimonies, analyzes the existing international drug treatment agreements, and presents structured interventions for persons who misuse opioids. The second section covers state-of-the-art advances in the medical use of opioids, opioid-induced signal transduction, opioids in pain management, opioid use disorders and their treatment. It also presents an updated view of opioids as regulators of inflammation and host defense against pathogens and damage. The overall aim of this book is to provide the reader with a deeper knowledge of this field despite the complexities associated with the existence of numerous ligands, receptor subtypes, and complex pharmacological profiles. To this end, the chapter authors are specialists in the field who also have extensive experience in teaching, hoping to lend their expertise in translating complex concepts into comprehensive and clear explanations.
