Unusual Delusional Syndromes

Capgras Syndrome – The belief that a loved one has been replaced by a clone-like imposter.

d’e Clarambault Syndrome/Erotomania – The belief that the individual is secretly loved by a celebrity.

Fregoli Syndrome – The delusional belief that a mysterious persecutor constantly changes form.

Grandeur – The patient believes that he/she is a person of exalted station, such as God, or a movie star.

Guilt – Patients feel that they have committed an unpardonable sin or grave error.

Ill Health – There is a belief that the individual suffers from a terrible or incurable disease

Jealousy – Patients believe that their spouses or partners have been unfaithful

Lycantrophy/Werewolfism – The person believes he/she is episodically transformed into a wolf.

Othello Syndrome – the delusional belief that a lover is unfaithful.

Parasitosis – the belief that an individual is infested with bugs.

Passivity – The patient is convinced that he/she is being controlled or manipulated by some outside influence, such as radio waves.

Persecution – The patient feels that he/she is being interfered with and/or tormented in some fashion

Phantom Boarder Syndrome – Unseen and unwelcome guests are living in the individual’s house.

Poverty – There is the fear of facing destitution, contrary to such evidence as a job and ample money in the bank

Reference – There is the feeling that the individual is being talked about, perhaps even in the press or on television

Thought Control – The delusional belief involves thoughts being put into or removed from the mind.

Note: Delusions have to be distinguished from overvalued ideas, which are beliefs that are not clearly false, but continue to be held despite lack of proof that they are correct. An example would be a belief in the superiority of one’s own race or political party.