

**AMERICAN COLLEGE OF FORENSIC PSYCHOLOGY**  
**35th Annual Symposium**  
**March 28-31, 2019 • San Diego**  
**The Westgate Hotel**



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The American College of Forensic Psychology is approved by the American Psychological Association to sponsor continuing education for psychologists. ACFP maintains responsibility for this program and its content. This program will offer a maximum of 23 hours of Continuing Education credits.

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*The 35th Annual Symposium is dedicated to the memory of Edward Miller, Founder and Executive Director of the American College of Forensic Psychology.*

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**PRELIMINARY PROGRAM**

**Wednesday, March 27**

4:00-5:30 Early Registration

**Thursday, March 28**

7:00-7:45 Registration and Continental Breakfast

7:45-8:00 Opening Remarks and Announcements

8:00-12:00 Sexual Assault and Abuse (4 CE credits)

*The following 5 presentations are all components of the Sexual Assault and Abuse session. To receive CE credit you must attend all of them. No partial credit will be awarded.*

8:00-8:45

**False allegations of rape and sexual assault by adolescents and adults: What does the research say?**

**Hollida Wakefield, M.A.**

Allegations of sexual harassment, sexual assault, and rape have been in the news, with the #MeToo movement and allegations against prominent men. This culminated in the controversy surrounding the Supreme Court confirmation of Judge Brett Kavanaugh. While many people take the position that we should “believe the victim,” others maintain we must always give the accused the benefit of the presumption of innocence. Studies attempting to estimate the prevalence of false allegations show a very wide range; one review puts it between 1.5% and 90%. This talk will summarize and critique the literature on the prevalence of false allegations of sexual assault and rape, and will examine research on factors and motivations underlying false allegations.

Hollida Wakefield is a forensic psychologist in private practice in Northfield, Minnesota. She has published and presented in the areas of psychology and law, the nature of memory, sexual abuse allegations and non-voluntary confessions.

8:45-9:30

**Forensic assessment of child sexual abuse allegations**

**Kristine M. Jacquin, Ph.D. and Michelle M. Tatum, M.A.**

Hundreds of thousands of sexual abuse allegations are reported to child protection agencies each year in the U.S. About 8.4% of these allegations are validated cases of sexual abuse (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 2017). Although the majority of allegations are true, a substantial number are proven to be false (O’Donohue, Cummings, & Willis, 2018; Poole, Dickinson, Brubacher, Liberty, & Kaake, 2014). Given the potential dire consequences for both false positive and false negative outcomes, thorough forensic assessment of child sexual

abuse allegations is essential. This presentation reviews relevant research to help forensic psychologists and attorneys learn best practices for assessing allegations, providing more accurate representation of credible accusations by expert witnesses.

Kristine M. Jacquin, Ph.D. is Professor of Psychology and Director of Clinical Training at Fielding Graduate University. She is a licensed clinical psychologist with a consulting practice focusing on forensic and neuropsychological evaluations. Michelle M. Tatum, M.A. is independently licensed as a professional clinical counselor.

9:30-10:15

**Sexually dangerous no longer? Massachusetts sexual recidivism data on sex offenders released from civil commitment**

**Joseph J. Plaud, Ph.D.**

One of the most hotly debated areas in clinical and forensic psychology and psychiatry concerns our ability to predict future sexual offending in light of sexual offender civil commitment laws in 20 states and within the federal government. This presentation will highlight outcome data collected during the past five years from men who were once civilly committed in Massachusetts as sexually dangerous persons and then released back to the community after either a jury trial or other administrative proceeding. The implications of this data set, including re-offense rates, public policy decisions and the role of forensic psychologists and psychiatrists will also be examined. Discussion will be given to the legitimacy of sexual offender civil commitment laws and practices given the outcome data on sex offender recidivism, even for men once deemed by Massachusetts to be the most dangerous sex offenders in the state.

Joseph J. Plaud, Ph.D., a clinical and forensic psychologist in Boston, has published and lectured widely in the assessment and treatment of sexual offenders. His opinion is frequently sought in forensic cases in state and federal courts across the U.S.

10:15-10:30 Coffee Break

10:30-11:15

**Trauma assessment in children and adolescents: Assessment, diagnoses, treatment, and special considerations**

**Rebecca Smith-Casey JD/PsyD**

Wide ranging research suggests children and adolescents who experience trauma will experience wide-ranging impact on their lives. This talk will focus on issues related to the assessment of trauma in children and adolescents, including types of trauma that are typical in these age groups, differential diagnoses related to trauma, symptom presentation in children, assessment, and special considerations related to collateral interviews, use of interpreters, and mandated reporting of abuse. Treatment options, prevalence rates and outcomes, as well as case examples, will be presented. Information related to the outcomes for adults with history of childhood trauma will be explored, including factors related to substance abuse, criminal offending, and rates of continued trauma in adulthood.

Rebecca Smith-Casey JD/PsyD presently serves as a trauma therapist and conducts psychosexual evaluations at the Joseph J. Peters Institute in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

11:15-12:00

**Gun violence, mental sickness and psychiatric medications: Is there a connection?**

**Jamshid A. Marvasti, M.D.**

There have been a number of articles written in the news media regarding the connection between psychiatric medication and

gun violence, citing several cases of mass gun violence where the offender was on psychiatric medications. Those in the gun industry claim that guns do not make someone “homicidal,” but rather the cause is medication and mental illness. Some psychiatric medications may cause or increase suicidality and psychiatric symptoms, such as anger and aggression. However, there is no scientific research that can accurately tie psychiatric medications to gun violence.

Jamshid A. Marvasti, M.D. is a child and adult psychiatrist, and assistant clinical professor at the University of New England College of Osteopathic Medicine.

12:00-1:30 Lunch Break (on your own)  
1:30-4:30 Two Rooms

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Room 1—

1:30-4:30 Forensic Evaluations (3 CE credits)

*Please note that the following 4 presentations are all components of the Forensic Evaluations session. To receive CE credit you must attend all of them. No partial credit will be awarded.*

1:30-2:15

**Juvenile waiver evaluations: Two cases of murder**

**Michael G. Ditsky, Ph.D.**

This presentation focuses on two cases of 16-year-old males charged with capital murder and referred for certification or waiver to an adult court in Texas. Seriousness of the offense, the juvenile’s dangerousness, sophistication and maturity, and amenability to treatment are to be weighed when determining jurisdiction. Emphasis will be placed on the use of the Risk-Sophistication-Treatment Inventory (RSTI) in conducting waiver evaluations. The framework under which a waiver evaluation is conducted will be discussed. Supreme Court decisions regarding the due process afforded to juveniles will be cited.

Michael G. Ditsky, Ph.D. has an independent practice in Sugar Land, Texas. He routinely conducts juvenile evaluations for a variety of purposes, including dispositions and waivers.

2:15-3:00

**Brains on trial**

**John H. White Ph.D.**

Several forensic neuropsychologists have hypothesized that the brains of multiple and single murderers are damaged and directly influence both personality and behavior, as many multiple and single murderers had experienced brain insults prior to committing their crimes. Program content focuses on ethical ramifications of using brain scans in court. Frye and Daubert will be discussed. Standards of research in this area, as well as the impact of brain scans and neuropsychological reports, will be addressed. Participants will be able to: (1) list the frequently used brain scanning techniques, (2) discuss several multiple and single murder cases in which brain scans were used, and (3) analyze and discuss the pros and cons of brain scans used in court.

John H. White Ph.D. is a professor of psychology at Stockton University in Atlantic City, New Jersey, where he developed the forensic psychology program. He has a private practice treating mostly sex offenders and consulting on murder and rape cases for law enforcement.

3:00-3:45

**Evaluation of firestarters**

**John W. Podboy, Ph.D., Albert J. Kastl, Ph.D., Robert Halon, Ph.D.**

The recent events in California of ongoing wild fires have brought back attention to the area of arsonists and multiple fire-

starters. We will discuss the various background characteristics that firestarters exhibit which may include: a background of potential parental abuse, below average intelligence levels, low academic performance, social dysfunction, and the probability of substance abuse. Further, we will review two recent cases involving firesetting behavior, and examine specific experiences related to arsonists.

John Podboy, Ph.D. has practiced in state and federal courts for over 40 years and has evaluated arsonists and others suspected of starting fires, as has Albert Kastl, Ph.D. Robert Halon, Ph.D. was a Northern California Fire Chief and has consulted for many years regarding arsonists and suspected arsonists.

3:45-4:30

**The role of nomothetic and ideographic procedures in evaluations of the best interests of children**

**Allan Posthuma, Ph.D.**

Family law is unique in its association with professional complaints to regulatory agencies by the “injured” parent, typically supported by a “critique” report from a hired psychologist. This presentation will address the scientific support to defend against alleged shortcomings by the typical “critique” reports and decisions of the college regulatory boards. This session will analyze nomothetic and ideographic criteria in the interpretation of psychological testing and other forensic data in child custody assessments. Complaints against psychologists need to be understood as part of an adversarial quasi-legal process in the court proceedings, similar to allegations of physical, sexual, or emotional abuse by a parent.

Allan Posthuma, Ph.D. is a clinical and forensic psychologist practicing in Vancouver, Canada. Dr. Posthuma has served on the faculties of Simon Fraser University, Royal Roads Military College, and the University of British Columbia.

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Room 2—

1:30-4:30 Ethical Issues in Forensic Psychology (3 CE credits)

*The following 2 presentations are components of the Ethical Issues in Forensic Psychology session. To receive CE credit you must attend both of them. No partial credit will be awarded.*

1:30-2:15

**Ethical issues for psychologists and attorneys in online teaching**

**Penny Clemmons, Ph.D. J.D.**

Online teaching and learning present new ethical challenges for forensic psychologists. Online learning has grown more prevalent in graduate schools, law schools and continuing education classes for psychologists. There are some programs that are conducted totally on line. A provider must be cognizant of the ethical issues and practices that arise between online programs and bricks and mortar programs. There is a paucity of literature to guide educators to meet the ethical challenges of internet learning and the specific application of ethical principles to psychologists and specifically forensic psychologists. This presentation will address relevant ethical issues in online education, examine the ethical challenges that arise from teaching synchronous and asynchronous courses and discuss how to participate ethically in our own online continuing education courses.

Penny Clemmons, Ph.D., J.D., a licensed clinical psychologist and a family law practitioner, is certified as a Specialist in Family Law by the State Bar of California. She has taught several online classes as an adjunct professor at the Santa Barbara and Ventura Colleges of Law, as well as at the Eisner Institute for Professional Studies and Abraham Lincoln University.

2:15-4:30

### **Ethical practices in forensic psychology**

**Jerry L. Brittain, Ph.D.**

Following a review of the APA Ethical Standards and Guidelines, focus of the presentation will be on case studies illustrating the many types of dilemmas faced by psychologists. Each case will be presented and the audience will be asked to identify the ethical dilemma, define any conflict between legal and professional standards, and outline a course of action. Cases will be made available to attendees prior to the presentation. Attendees are encouraged to read the cases before the talk and come prepared to discuss ideas and possible courses of action.

Jerry L. Brittain, Ph.D. is a retired military psychologist and has been an expert witness in countless cases. His areas of professional interest are ethics and professional practice, Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI), and school gun violence. He currently practices at Wake Forest Baptist Hospital in North Carolina.

5:30-6:30 Student Poster Session

5:30-6:45 Welcome Reception

## **Friday, March 29**

7:15-8:00 Registration and Continental Breakfast

8:00-12:00 Ethics and Practice Issues (4 CE credits)

*The following 3 presentations are all components of the Ethics and Practice Issues session. To receive CE credit you must attend all of them. No partial credit will be awarded.*

8:00-8:45

### **Effective forensic reports and documentation: Pitfalls, credibility and evidence rules**

**Andrew Mendonsa, Psy.D., MBA, Andrew Wakefield, LMFT, Tony Angelo, Psy.D.**

The days of resolving cases based on common sense, evaluator opinion and general knowledge are long gone. The role of thoughtfully-written and well-presented forensic reports cannot be ignored in today's legal environment. This presentation will include an overview of various state and federal regulations related to expert report testimony, including Federal Rule of Evidence 702 which governs the admissibility of an expert opinion by physicians, healthcare staff, law enforcement officials, and mental health professionals. Effective writing styles, report formatting and structure, content pitfalls and the effective communication of report content to difference audiences will be discussed. Attendees will review reports considered well written and will be given examples of reports and documentation to use in practice.

Andrew Mendonsa, Psy.D., MBA is a licensed California psychologist specializing in clinical and forensic psychology. He has authored over 700 forensic reports including qualified medical evaluations/agreed medical evaluations, court mandated evaluations and second opinions. Dr. Tony Angelo is President of Pacific Forensic Psychology Associates, a statewide forensic corporation. Mr. Andrew Wakefield has provided evaluation and treatment to clinical and forensic populations for several years.

8:45-9:30

### **Neuroscientific approaches to a therapeutic jurisprudence model of juvenile sentencing**

**Michael L. Perlin, J.D., LL.D (hon.) and Alison J. Lynch, Esq.**

We will 1) present an overview on neuroscientific findings about juvenile brain development in the context of criminal behavior, and on sentencing standards and regulations that are in place, 2) discuss the impact of therapeutic jurisprudence as a framework

for advocating for juvenile clients, in order to preserve their psychological well-being and to mitigate trauma, and 3) offer recommendations for how experts can work with attorneys presenting sentencing arguments, in order to make the most comprehensive, scientifically persuasive case for leniency in juvenile sentencing. Learners will be able to 1) discuss the basic principles of therapeutic jurisprudence and the relationship between recent Supreme Court decisions involving juveniles and recent developments in juvenile-brain neuroscience, and 2) plan litigation strategies that minimize trauma in the legal process.

Michael L. Perlin is professor emeritus at New York Law School and co-founder of Mental Disability Law and Policy Associates. He has written 30 books and nearly 300 articles on all aspects of mental disability law, including its relationship to therapeutic jurisprudence. Alison J. Lynch is a staff attorney with Disability Rights, New York, and she writes frequently about neuroscientific issues in the context of therapeutic jurisprudence.

9:30-12:00

### **Forensic skills workshop:**

#### **The role of the psychologist in civil and criminal litigation**

**Dr. Elliot Atkins, Elizabeth Kelley, J.D., Michael Perlin, J.D., Gretchen von Helms, J.D., Thomas Haworth, Ph.D., Valerie McClain, Psy.D.**

This forensic skills forum will focus on issues in civil and criminal law that interface with psychology and expert testimony by psychologists. This is an interactive session involving moderator, panelists and audience on advanced ethical and practice issues confronting the forensic psychologist. Vignettes submitted to the panel by practicing forensic psychologists will be read aloud and discussed. The vignettes describe problems and experiences that forensic psychologists often confront in their practices and in court. Attendees will be exposed to a wide variety of forensic cases and problems in civil and criminal areas.

Dr. Elliot Atkins (Moderator) is in private practice in Pennsylvania and New Jersey. Elizabeth Kelley is a criminal defense attorney who specializes in representing individuals with mental illness, as well as individuals with intellectual disabilities. Michael L. Perlin is Professor of Law Emeritus at New York Law School. Gretchen von Helms is a Harvard educated lawyer who has practiced law for approximately 20 years. She is an experienced state and federal trial lawyer. Thomas F. Haworth, Ph.D. is a licensed psychologist in Pennsylvania and New Jersey. Dr. Valerie McClain is a licensed psychologist in Florida.

12:00-1:30 Lunch Break (on your own)

1:30-4:30 Threat Assessment: Predicting and Preventing Violence (3 CE credits)

*The following 4 presentations are all components of the Threat Assessment: Predicting and Preventing Violence session. To receive CE credit you must attend all of them. No partial credit will be awarded.*

1:30-2:15

### **Social media and school shootings:**

#### **Predicting threats, preventing violence, preserving freedom**

**Lorna Veraldi, J.D. and Donna M. Veraldi, Ph.D.**

Appellate courts have issued conflicting decisions about whether school officials may discipline students over social media content posted outside school hours and off campus. However, recent school shootings have given rise to increasing demands that schools monitor social media to identify and discipline students who pose a threat to campus safety. How should we balance the potential benefits of such surveillance against the damage to students' rights, including the right to free speech? This presenta-

tion will enable symposium participants to: 1) summarize legal decisions about students' First Amendment rights on social media; 2) explain research on predicting future violence based on social media content; and 3) assess the benefits and drawbacks of allowing school officials to exercise control over student social media in preventing campus violence.

Lorna Veraldi, J.D., is Associate Professor in the Department of Journalism and Media at Florida International University, Miami, Florida, where she teaches media law and ethics. Donna M. Veraldi, Ph.D., is a forensic psychologist in private practice in Billings, Montana. They have collaborated on multiple presentations and publications dealing with the intersection of First Amendment law and psychological research on the relationship between speech about violence and violent behavior.

2:15-3:00

**The school shooter: What is known about threat assessment**  
**Robert Meyer Ph.D.**

This presentation will review risk assessment procedures used when being retained by schools, attorneys or the court to conduct a risk assessment of students identified as potential risk. Base rates for school shooting events and the impact of low base rates on the predictive value of risk assessments will be reviewed. "Best practice approaches" when conducting a risk assessment will be discussed, as well as what is known about the clinical features and personality traits of known school shooters. Case examples of assessments will be shared.

Robert Meyer, Ph.D. is Chief Clinical Psychologist at Mathers Clinic, LLC and adjunct faculty at Walden University.

3:00-3:45

**School shootings: An Ohio county's approach to threat assessment**  
**Nicole Leisgang, Psy.D.**

Following the shooting in Parkland, Florida, the Hamilton County Juvenile Court instituted a comprehensive assessment of students who were adjudicated on charges related to school shooting threats. This presentation will highlight the development of the assessment strategy in light of findings published by the Secret Service, FBI and Department of Education. Following the presentation, attendees will be able to: 1) differentiate targeted violence from general violence; 2) describe current best practice strategies in assessing targeted school violence; 3) summarize demographic information from one juvenile court's assessment of students adjudicated for making school threats.

Dr. Nicole Leisgang is the Associate Director of ForPsych: A Forensic Psychology Practice. In addition to her private practice, she is clinical consultant for the Hamilton County Juvenile Court and was instrumental in creating and implementing threat assessment procedures for the Court.

3:45-4:30

**What do laboratory studies of racial bias in shooting tell us? Making sense of conflicting findings in the first person shooter task**  
**Carol A. Vazquez, Ph.D.**

The shooting of an unarmed Black provokes intense media attention. Laboratory studies on the shooter task have revealed a robust pattern of anti-Black bias, with false alarm errors (shooting an unarmed target) more likely for Blacks than Whites. Nevertheless, there is growing confusion, with some lab studies, using students or police officers as participants, reporting limited racial bias or even anti-White bias, and with some data for real-life deadly shootings suggesting no racial bias. Methodological,

theoretical and motivational issues are examined to explore why the field is getting confusing and how our understanding of possible racial bias may be compromised. Attendees will be able to: 1) identify four laboratory measures of anti-Black bias; 2) summarize laboratory evidence for bias; 3) articulate advantages and disadvantages of lab research.

Carol A Vazquez, Ph.D. is on the faculty of the State University at New Paltz in New York. She has been studying racial bias in shooting for the last two years.

## Saturday, March 30

7:15-8:00 Registration and Continental Breakfast

8:00-1:00 Forensic Neuropsychological Assessment  
(5 CE credits)

*The following 6 presentations are all components of the Forensic Neuropsychological Assessment session. To receive CE credit you must attend all of them. No partial credit will be awarded.*

8:00-9:00

**Neuropsychological test differences between TBI, neurodevelopmental disorders, and substance-induced neurocognitive disorder**

**Kristine M. Jacquin, Ph.D., Yelina Fernandez, M.S., Sonya McCrea, Craig Crawford, M.S.W.**

Forensic neuropsychologists are often asked to assess criminal defendants and civil litigants to determine the extent of impairment due to mild traumatic brain injury. Mild TBI is believed to be the most common reason for neuropsychological assessment in civil litigation (Boone, 2013; Ruff & Richardson, 1999). Likewise, criminal defendants suffer from TBI at higher rates than the general population (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2013). Neuropsychological assessments of TBI are complicated by the need to distinguish TBI symptoms from other factors that impact brain functioning, such as neurodevelopmental disorders and substance-induced neurocognitive disorder. The purpose of this presentation is to present research on neuropsychological test differences between TBI, neurodevelopmental disorders, and substance-induced neurocognitive disorder.

Kristine M. Jacquin, Ph.D. is a Professor of Psychology and Director of Clinical Training at Fielding Graduate University, and a licensed clinical psychologist with a consulting practice. Yelina Fernandez, Sonya McCrea and Craig Crawford are clinical psychology doctoral students at Fielding Graduate University and researchers in the forensic neuropsychology lab of Dr. Jacquin.

9:00-9:45

**Expectations of the court as viewed by attorneys and advocates with regard to neuropsychological evaluations in motor vehicle accident claims in South Africa**  
**Henk Swanepoel, Ph.D., MSc and Attorney Margaret Setzer**

Presently there is no coherent body in South Africa to guide forensic neuropsychologists. There is also no systematic process of peer review for these professionals. Instead, neuropsychologists rely on principles developed abroad as well as Continued Professional Development (CPD) courses and workshops which aim to train forensic neuropsychologists in the legal context. However, no exclusive guidelines for South African forensic neuropsychologists are available that highlight the legal fraternity's expectations. In collaboration with the North-West University, Potchefstroom, South Africa, 26 experienced legal practitioners (attorneys and advocates) were interviewed to determine the South African court's expectations regarding neuropsychological evaluations of claims in motor vehicle accidents.

This presentation presents the findings of this study.

Henk Swanepoel Ph.D., MSc has worked in the personal injury arena for 20 years as a practitioner and lecturer. He has worked for several international legal firms and insurance firms. He is a senior lecturer at the Medical University of South Africa (Medunsa) and Sefako Makgatho Health Sciences University (SMU). Margaret Setzer is a senior litigation attorney with the law firm Elmarie de Vos, Inc. in Vereeniging, South Africa.

9:45-10:00 Coffee Break

10:00-10:45

### **Assessment and treatment of trauma- and stressor-related disorders in civilian populations**

**Rebecca Smith-Casey JD/PsyD**

It is estimated that 70% of adults in the U.S. have been exposed to a traumatic event. The current presentation will focus on the experience of trauma in civilian populations, including the typical types of experienced trauma, assessment of symptoms of post-traumatic distress, diagnostic considerations for the varying Trauma- and Stressor-Related Disorders in the DSM-5, and potential treatment modalities. Discussion will also include potential long-term outcomes related to lifetime experiences of trauma, including impact on health, the economy, substance abuse, links to the criminal justice system, and the multi-generational nature of trauma.

Rebecca Smith-Casey JD/PsyD presently serves as a trauma therapist and conducts psychosexual evaluations at the Joseph J. Peters Institute in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

10:45-11:30

### **Evaluation of unlikely claims of neuropsychological deficits**

**Inés Monguió, Ph.D.**

Civil plaintiffs or injured workers may claim neuropsychological deficits as a consequence of relatively minor incidents that are reported to cause disabling sequelae. Besides malingering, other factors must be considered and assessed to diagnose appropriately and communicate the findings clearly. Two case histories will be provided to illustrate approach and process to achieve the learning objectives: 1) review malingering as a diagnosis, and summarize instruments and guidelines to rule out malingering; 2) review and summarize expected deficits resulting from mild TBI/concussion; 3) identify non-neuropsychological factors that may interact with person and medical/legal/insurance system to produce unlikely symptoms and disability.

Inés Monguió, Ph.D. has been working in the forensic arena since 1990 with an emphasis in neuropsychology. She is in private practice in Ventura, California.

11:30-12:15

### **Cultural considerations in forensic psychological assessment**

**Baljit Atwal, Ph.D. and Carol Chambers, Psy.D.**

What makes a culturally competent forensic psychologist or psychiatrist? What metrics can we use to hold ourselves accountable to this standard, and what does it mean to fully integrate cultural considerations into our forensic assessments, rather than presenting it as an afterthought? Landmark legal cases where cultural considerations have been pivotal are reviewed. Specific psychological assessment instruments are analyzed with cultural considerations in mind. We have adopted a broad definition of culture, to include organizational, professional, military, social networks and gang culture, as well as racial, ethnic and gender-based categories. Future directions for cultural competency in

forensic assessment are discussed in the context of actual case studies from our forensic practice.

Dr. Baljit Atwal is a clinical and forensic psychologist and is the founder and owner of Psychology Assessment Resource Center (PARC) in Rocklin, California. Dr. Carol Chambers is a licensed clinical and forensic psychologist in private practice, specializing in psychotherapy and psychological assessment.

12:15-1:00

### **Cultural competency: Forensic challenges**

**Mark D. Ackerman, Ph.D. and Valerie R. McClain, Psy.D.**

Recent immigration trends in the U.S. mandate that forensic psychologists become familiar with culturally sensitive interview and testing approaches as statistics suggest that individuals from diverse and minority backgrounds comprise a significant portion of defendants charged with crimes. Ethical guidelines for appropriate selection and use of tests which consider cross-cultural validity will be addressed, including intelligence, neuropsychological and personality testing. Supplemental interview formats and self-report protocols that can be used to further enhance our understanding of diverse clients will be presented. Case examples will be used to illustrate applications to immigration cases, including competency evaluations and mitigation strategies. Special emphasis will be placed on understanding the ethnic or reference group and the degree of involvement with the culture of origin and host culture through use of the DSM-5 cultural formulation interview.

Mark D. Ackerman, Ph.D. directs the Nicotine Addiction Treatment Program and is the Health Behavior Coordinator at the Atlanta VA Medical Center. Valerie R. McClain, Psy.D. is a licensed psychologist in Tampa, Florida.

## **Sunday, March 31**

7:15-8:00 Registration and Continental Breakfast

8:00-12:00 Forensic Psychological Evaluations (4 CE credits)

*The following 5 presentations are all components of the Forensic Psychological Evaluations session. To receive CE credit you must attend all of them. No partial credit will be awarded.*

8:00-8:45

### **Forensic evaluation in hardship cases**

**Megan Seltz, Ph.D.**

Hardship is an important legal standard that a forensic psychologist can help measure and explain. Evaluations are useful in immigration proceedings and applications, and examples will be provided. It is important to understand the role of the forensic evaluation in each hardship case. Providing an expert opinion involves clarifying the reason for referral, discerning best practices, understanding implications of findings, and presenting hardship findings in a way that is meaningful to the court. Areas of hardship and also assessment strategies which are individualized and culture sensitive will be discussed. Challenges that arise in the context of the evaluation will be described.

Megan Seltz, Ph.D. is in private practice in New York City, specializing in the evaluation of cases for immigration matters. She frequently evaluates matters of hardship that are both psychologically diverse and eclectic.

8:45-9:30

### **The forensic psychological evaluation in civil litigation**

**James W. Schutte, Ph.D. and Christopher W. Schutte**

Forensic psychologists are often called to perform evaluations of plaintiffs in personal injury litigation, and may be asked to render opinions on the presence and extent of psychological in-

juries, as well as possible malingering and prognoses for recovery. Effective assessment in this area requires an understanding of the need for collateral information, as well as comprehensive interviewing, appropriate testing, and effective report-writing. Attendees will be able to describe the elements of an effective psychological evaluation in personal injury litigation, distinguish between defensible and questionable assessment techniques, and anticipate likely areas of cross-examination, including challenges to their expertise, methodology, and conclusions.

James W. Schutte, Ph.D. is a psychologist in private practice in El Paso, Texas. His practice involves psychological assessment and consultation in matters of disability, criminal and civil litigation. Christopher W. Schutte is a student at Brown University.

9:30-10:15

### **Aphorisms**

**Marc L Zimmermann, Ph.D., MP, Daniel P. Greenfield, M.D., Edward Dougherty, Ed.D.**

A series of caveats and aphorisms will be presented for psychologists and other mental health professionals serving as expert witnesses. Arranged chronologically to correspond with the flow of the forensic expert consultation process, the goals of this presentation are to: advise about the parameters and pitfalls of taking on forensic mental health consultations; inform about potentially difficult moments during testimony; anticipate potential problems in the consultation process; and discuss potential early and later conflicts with counsel.

Marc L. Zimmermann, Ph.D., MP is in the private practice of clinical and forensic psychology in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Daniel P. Greenfield, M.D., MPH, MS is in the private practice of general and forensic psychiatry, and addiction medicine in New Jersey. Edward J. Dougherty, Ed.D., is a practicing clinical and forensic psychologist in New Jersey and Pennsylvania.

10:15-10:30 Coffee Break

10:30-11:15

### **A qualitative assessment of the strengths and weaknesses of the disease/12-step model**

**William K. Marek, Ph.D.**

This qualitative presentation will limn the strengths and weaknesses of the disease/12-step model. It will provide the latest research on the disease model's conceptualization, categorization, form and treatment of addicts. Reasons for the ubiquity of the model will be addressed, including its use in the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. Theoretical and treatment alternatives to the model will be discussed. Following the presentation, participants will be able to 1) discuss the strengths of the disease/12-step model and why it is used so often in the court system and prisons; 2) discuss the weaknesses of the disease/12-step model; 3) list the theoretical and practical alternatives to the disease/12-step model.

William K. Marek, Ph.D. is a retired Federal Bureau of Prisons psychologist. He is currently in private practice and an adjunct instructor.

11:15-12:00

### **Scientific principles of forensic neuropsychological assessment**

**Michael J. Perrotti, Ph.D.**

This presentation will focus on principles and application of neuropsychological assessment for the forensic psychologist. A comprehensive exposition on brain diseases and injuries will be presented as well as the effect of resultant brain dysfunction on numerous legal problems and issues in the courts. Commonly

encountered forensic issues such as assessment of malingering, productive interactions of the neuropsychologist with attorneys and determination of damages in personal injury, TBI, neurotoxin injury, chronic pain, and PTSD will be discussed.

Michael J. Perrotti, Ph.D. is a clinical and forensic neuropsychologist in private practice in Brea, California. He is a certified expert in neuropsychology by LA County Superior Court.

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The foregoing program is a "preliminary program" and additions/deletions are to be expected in the presentations and scheduling of talks. The final program will be distributed to all registrants just prior to the meeting.

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**Goal:** The goal of the symposium is to keep forensic psychologists abreast of important issues which lie within the interface of psychology and law, recent developments in psychology that require new knowledge for expert witnesses, and new case law affecting forensic practice.

**Target Audience:** The program is intended to benefit practicing forensic psychologists, psychologists in other subspecialties, and attorneys who litigate civil and criminal cases involving psychological evaluations and expert testimony. **Objectives:** Participants should improve their knowledge and skills in the following areas: (a) evaluation or treatment of forensic litigants and individuals with other forensic psychological issues; (b) new and ongoing research and developments in the field of forensic psychology; (c) relevant concepts useful in testifying and educating the court on mental health issues, and in working within the legal system; (d) changes in the law that affect clinical and forensic practice; (e) legal and psychological aspects involving the mentally disordered inmate in correctional facilities.

**San Diego and The Westgate Hotel:** San Diego in the Spring — a lovely time to visit! Mild temperatures, sunny days... The classically elegant Westgate Hotel is in the heart of the vibrant downtown shopping, entertainment, and historic Gaslamp Quarter. The Westgate has a beautiful rooftop pool and is within short walking distance of many excellent restaurants. The hotel is close to Balboa Park with its numerous museums and the San Diego Zoo, Seaport Village, Sea World and the beautiful beaches north of San Diego. The Westgate Hotel has been awarded the AAA Four Diamond Award for the past ten years. The lobby, meeting rooms, and intimate dining areas showcase 18th Century antiques, Baccarat crystal chandeliers and French tapestries. The guestrooms are said to be the largest in downtown San Diego. You can catch the red electric trolley behind the hotel to Seaport Village, the Gaslamp Quarter (both also within walking distance of the hotel), Little Italy and Historic Old Town.

**Hotel Reservations:** We have secured a block of rooms for the College at The Westgate Hotel at a very special rate of \$189 per night. The hotel has waived the daily facility (resort) fee and is providing complimentary public Wi-Fi Internet in the meeting rooms and guest rooms for our group. You may call the hotel's reservation department at 800-221-3802, or 619-238-1818. Please identify yourself as part of the College to secure the preferred rate. Or, go to our website: [forensicpsychology.org](http://forensicpsychology.org) for a link to make your hotel reservation online. The hotel is located at 1055 Second Ave., San Diego, CA 92101. Room reservations must be received by March 5, 2019. Reservations made after March 5 are subject to availability at the prevailing hotel rate.

See other side for Symposium Registration Information and Registration Form.

**SYMPOSIUM REGISTRATION INFORMATION**

Please complete and return the registration form below with your credit card information or check for the appropriate amount, payable to American College of Forensic Psychology.

\$575 College Member (by March 5)                      \$625 College Member (after March 5)  
\$625 NonCollege Member (by March 5)                \$675 NonCollege Member (after March 5)

Student Fee: \$325 (Please provide proof of *Full-Time* student status)  
Two-Day Registration: \$450 Please circle days: Thurs. Fri. Sat. Sun.

**College Membership:** If you wish to join the College at this time and attend the meeting, please add \$255 to the appropriate College member registration amount. Registration fees cover the meetings each day, continental breakfast each morning, coffee breaks, Thursday night’s Welcome Reception, and conference materials. **Spouses/Guests:** A spouse or guest who wishes to attend the meetings may register by paying the appropriate fee, less \$100 discount. This discount applies only to the four-day registration fees, not to two-day registrations or student registrations. **Cancellations:** Requests for registration refunds must be sent in writing to the College by March 5, 2019 and are subject to a \$50 service charge. No other refunds are permitted. **CE: 23 hours**

**SYMPOSIUM REGISTRATION FORM**

Please clip or xerox and return with your payment:

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35th ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM • March 28-31, 2019 • SAN DIEGO

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