

**AMERICAN COLLEGE OF FORENSIC PSYCHOLOGY**  
**34th Annual Symposium**  
**April 12-15, 2018 • 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.

**Note to California psychologists:** There will be a 2-part, six-hour workshop on Thursday and Friday afternoons designed to meet the new California CE requirement for training in suicide risk assessment and intervention.

**PRELIMINARY PROGRAM**

**Wednesday, April 11**

4:00-5:30 Early Registration

**Thursday, April 12**

7:00-7:45 Registration and Continental Breakfast  
7:45-8:00 Opening Remarks and Announcements  
8:00-12:00 Criminal/Psychopharmacology Issues  
(4 CE credits)

8:00-8:40

**Sexual predators: Examining the continuum and the legal implications**

**John W. Podboy Ph.D., Robert Halon, Ph.D.,  
Valerie McClain, Psy.D.**

This presentation will focus on addressing sexual predators who are also professionals in positions of trust and power over their victims (e.g., physicians, clergymen, teachers, coaches, etc.) who have been able to sidestep attention in part because of their elevated social status, while some individuals of lesser social stature who may be socioeconomically deprived fail to avoid the microscope of the media and law enforcement. We will also focus on victims of sexual violence who become enablers to sexual predators in positions of power and are themselves found guilty and legally punished for aiding and abetting their perpetrators. Case examples will focus on two physicians in positions of power found guilty of sexual molestation of young males, along with three cases focused on victim enablers.

John W. Podboy, Ph.D., has practiced in state and federal courts for over 40 years. Robert Halon, Ph.D., is a clinical and forensic psychologist who practices in the Western United States. He has offices in San Luis Obispo, California. Valerie McClain, Ph.D., has offices in Tampa, Florida. She practices in state and federal courts throughout the Southeast.

8:40-9:20

**The evolution of psychology and science in single and serial homicide investigations**

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

Almost everyone has heard of serial killers Gary Ridgway, Ted Bundy, Jeffrey Dahmer, and David Berkowitz. But who represents the new generation of serial murderers, the ones who have killed since 2000? It appears that serial murder is on the decrease and some attribute the decrease to advances in forensic science and forensic psychology. Investigators say “follow the evidence”

but there are times when the behavior of suspects is more telling than physical evidence. The evolution of murder and serial murder investigations over the past 30 years and how these investigations have been enhanced by science and psychology will be discussed. Participants will be able to 1) identify the newer forensic techniques used in serial murder investigations; 2) list latest serial killers; 3) identify changes in profiling techniques.

John H. White, Ph.D., is a professor of psychology at Stockton University in Galloway, New Jersey, and has a private practice in which he has been treating sex offenders for the past 20 years.

9:20-10:15

**Psychopharmacology update for forensic psychologists and attorneys**

**Kristine M. Jacquin, Ph.D., Amanda K. Armstrong, M.S.,  
Jonathan C. Blassingame, MSW**

Approximately 3.5 billion prescriptions are written each year in the U.S., and as many as half of those prescriptions are for psychotropic drugs. In addition, about half of Americans are current users of at least one recreational psychotropic drug. On a regular basis, forensic psychologists and attorneys encounter psychotropic drug effects in their practices, making it essential to remain up-to-date on the latest psychopharmacology research. At the conclusion of this presentation, attendees will be able to describe the prevalence of psychotropic drug use in the U.S., recognize some of the effects of non-psychotropic drugs on psychological functioning, and evaluate the latest research on psychopharmacology.

Kristine M. Jacquin, Ph.D. is Professor of Psychology and Dean at Fielding Graduate University. She is also a licensed clinical psychologist with a consulting practice focusing on forensic and neuropsychological evaluations. Amanda K. Armstrong, M.S. and Jonathan C. Blassingame, MSW are clinical psychology doctoral students at Fielding Graduate University and research assistants in the forensic neuropsychology lab of Dr. Jacquin.

10:15-10:30 Coffee Break

10:30-11:15

**Psychology and forensic aspects of hate crime, racism, and xenophobia**

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

The vast majority of Americans are proud of our diversity. The slogan “diverse, but united” is what made the U.S. a superpower. However, there are minorities (e.g., the KKK, white supremacists, neo-Nazis) who propagate hate and prejudice and their criminal activities become news of the day. In this presentation, the psychological aspect of racists and hate criminals will be explored and the forensic/legal aspects will be explained. Following the presentation, attendees will be able to discuss the neuropsychology of hate, the history of the legislation of hate crime, and the psychodynamics of racism and xenophobia.

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. He has published articles and edited books including *War Trauma in Veterans and Their Families* (2012), *Psycho-Political Aspects of Suicide Warriors, Terrorism, and Martyrdom* (2008).

11:15-12:00

**Common juror misconceptions: When psychological experts are essential**

**Hollida Wakefield, M.A.**

There are several areas in criminal trials where expert witnesses are essential because most jurors have mistaken beliefs. These

include the nature and reliability of memory, child witness interviews, claims of traumatic amnesia, sexual offender recidivism, and false confessions. These areas are supported by research and generally accepted in the scientific community but not known by most lay people. Attendees will be able to summarize these common but erroneous beliefs, educate the attorney and the jury, and explain to the court that these are not areas jurors already know. A comprehensive list of references will be provided.

Hollida Wakefield, M.A. is a forensic psychologist in private practice in Northfield, Minnesota who has regularly published articles and books and given presentations in the areas of psychology and law, sexual abuse allegations, interviewing children, the nature of memory, and nonvoluntary confessions.

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

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Room 1—

**Essentials of Suicide Risk Assessment and Intervention—Part 1** (3 CE credits)

**Joseph H. Obegi, Psy.D.**

This 2-part workshop (continued on Friday afternoon) is designed to meet the new California CE requirement of 6 hours of training in suicide risk assessment and intervention.

*Part 1: Suicide Risk Assessment*

This 2-part course will cover the essential aspects of suicide risk assessment and intervention. Part 1 teaches participants how to complete a high-quality suicide risk assessment, an essential first step in protecting the suicidal patient. Participants will learn a structured approach to inquiring about suicidal thinking and behavior and then integrating this information with warning signs and risk factors for suicide. Guidelines for estimating suicide risk will be reviewed as well as how to create a treatment plan that reduces risk.

Following the presentation, participants will be able to: 1) discuss suicide-related statistics and terms; 2) describe the phenomenology of suicide; 3) discuss of benefits of using a semi-structured interview to collect clinical data; 4) explain a structured approach to evaluating suicide risk.

Attendees will have access to electronic versions of the slides and handouts. Links and references will also be available to guide further learning.

Joseph H. Obegi, Psy.D. is a licensed Senior Psychologist at California State Prison, Solano where he coordinates institutional efforts to prevent suicide. In the community, he regularly presents on topics related to suicide, delivers customized training for mental health agencies, and writes about suicide risk assessment, suicide and liability, and suicidality as a psychiatric condition.

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Room 2—Juvenile/Autism Spectrum Disorder (3 CE credits)  
1:30-2:15

**The forensic psychologist's role in juvenile resentencing hearings**

**Valerie R. McClain, Psy.D.**

This presentation will focus on exploring the implications of the Supreme Court's ruling in *Miller v. Alabama* (2012) and *Graham v. Florida* (2010) with respect to resentencing juveniles convicted under mandatory sentencing guidelines resulting in life without parole. Areas in which the forensic psychologist can assist attorneys representing individuals sentenced to life as juveniles will be identified and expanded on to include utilizing

psychological assessment tools and review of life history to meet the statutory guidelines. Case examples will be presented to provide opportunities to explore the utility of the forensic psychologist in achieving desired outcomes in juvenile resentencing hearings. The audience will be assisted in understanding the legal basis of juvenile resentencing hearings and relevant statutory guidelines. Emphasis will be placed on identifying important mitigating factors in preparation for courtroom testimony.

Dr. Valerie McClain is a forensic psychologist who practices in Tampa, Florida.

2:15-3:00

**Traveling to meet an undercover agent**

**Dr. Elliot Atkins, Thomas F. Haworth, Ph.D., John H. White, Ph.D.**

This presentation will help attendees gain insight into the personality, thinking and intention of individuals who use the Internet to engage in dialogues (chats) that include reference to pedophilic acts, and who, in some cases, actually travel to meet what usually turns out to be an undercover agent. Following this presentation, attendees should: understand the depth and scope of this escalating phenomenon; gain insight into the mindset of individuals who engage in this behavior; understand the role that fantasy and role-playing play in this phenomenon; be able to differentiate between those who are more and less likely to act out these fantasies; and understand the forensic and treatment implications of this phenomenon.

Dr. Elliot Atkins is in private practice in Pennsylvania and New Jersey. Thomas F. Haworth, Ph.D. is a licensed psychologist in Pennsylvania and New Jersey who has practiced clinically and forensically for the past 15 years. John H. White, Ph.D., is a professor of psychology at Stockton University in Galloway, New Jersey, and has a private practice in which he has been treating sex offenders for the past 20 years.

3:00-3:45

**Parental alienation and reunification procedures when autism is a consideration**

**David L Holmes, Ed.D.**

Parental alienation (PA) occurs when a favored parent triangulates with the child[ren] against the non-favored parent. It results in significant emotional and physical separation from the non-favored parent. In this presentation we will review the symptoms of PA, how they compare to symptoms of ASD and discuss why forced reunification is traumatizing to children with ASD, often resulting in irreparable harm. Attendees will be able to 1) discuss parental alienation, its symptoms and current treatment; 2) identify the symptoms of autism and symptoms of parental alienation and the underlying differences; 3) describe how cognitive behavior therapy, using desensitization procedures, is the treatment of choice for children with autism spectrum disorder.

Dr. David L. Holmes is Chairman and CEO of Lifespan Services, LLC, a full service consulting company established to help families and individuals with autism and related disabilities.

3:45-4:30

**Seeing in the dark: The mystery of origins**

**Dee Moise Langford, Ed.D.**

Few subjects have captured man's imagination more than the question of origins, from the majesty of the cosmos to the intricacies of the smallest organisms. It is no less intriguing or contested today than in centuries past and remains a compelling and, perhaps, even more vital study as the world becomes increasingly complex and uncertain. This venture will uncover and doc-

ument the beliefs and scientific evidence which underlie the perspectives of the doyens of both evolution and creation on the origins of the earth and life, the extensive geological data, and the animal and human fossil records and remains. This is applicable to the work of forensic psychologists and scientists as they seek to understand motives and mindsets of clients who are self-destructive and/or involved in criminal activities and behaviors. Dee Moise Langford is a psychologist practicing in Chattanooga, Tennessee, who has testing experience in both forensic and disability evaluations.

5:30-6:30 Student Poster Session

5:30-6:45 Welcome Reception

## Friday, April 13

7:15-8:00 Registration and Continental Breakfast

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

8:00-8:45

### **Soldiers, savants, and sexual crimes: An examination of two groups of child pornography offenders**

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

Anecdotal evidence suggests military personnel and persons with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) are not uncommon in samples of child pornography offenders. Elements of ASD, including social deficits, compulsive behavior, and stereotyped interests, may place these individuals at risk for child pornography offending. Likewise, combat experience and traumatic stress may place military personnel at risk. This presentation will examine these groups of offenders, review general knowledge on child pornography offenders, and discuss assessment and recidivism issues.

James W. Schutte, Ph.D. is in private practice in El Paso, Texas. He often consults with the local federal and county public defenders on cases of child pornography offending, and has performed numerous assessments of child pornography offenders. Christopher W. Schutte is a student at Brown University.

8:45-9:45

### **“Some things are too hot to touch”: Competency, the right to sexual autonomy, and the roles of lawyers and expert witnesses**

**Michael L. Perlin, J.D., LL.D. (honorary), Alison J. Lynch, Esq., Valerie R. McClain, Psy.D.**

The idea that persons with mental disabilities have the same right as all others to sexual autonomy is still “beyond the last frontier” for most of society. In this presentation, drawing on statutory and regulatory policies and guidelines from the fields of forensic psychology and criminal law, we discuss how we globally ignore the law and the science about competency determinations when it comes to matters involving this population, and how this failure violates therapeutic jurisprudence and constitutional law. We focus on ethical obligations of lawyers and expert witnesses, and offer recommendations for best practices in this complex, challenging area of law and social policy. Attendees will be able to: 1) identify and apply legal guidelines to protect human rights and enhance sexual autonomy in cases involving persons with mental disabilities; 2) identify areas in which forensic psychologists can assist attorneys in cases involving mentally and intellectually disabled adults regarding alleged sexual offenses; 3) identify and anticipate legal challenges while testifying as an expert in cases involving mentally disabled adults accused of sexual offenses.

Michael L. Perlin is Professor of Law Emeritus at New York Law School (NYLS), founding director of NYLS’s Online Mental Disability Law Program, and founding director of NYLS’s International Mental Disability Law Reform Project in its Justice Action Center. He has written 31 books and nearly 300 articles on all aspects of mental disability law. Alison Lynch is a New York City-based attorney who works in the field of mental health law for the federally funded protection and advocacy system. Valerie R. McClain, Psy.D. is a licensed psychologist who practices in Tampa, Florida and specializes in neuropsychology and forensic psychology.

9:45-10:00 Coffee Break

10:00-12:00

### **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 who has practiced clinically and forensically for the past 15 years. Dr. Valerie McClain is a licensed psychologist in Florida.

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

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

### **Suicide Risk Assessment and Intervention—Part 2**

**Joseph H. Obegi, Psy.D.**

This 2-part workshop (continued from Thursday afternoon) is designed to meet the new California CE requirement of 6 hours of training in suicide risk assessment and intervention.

#### *Part 2: Intervention*

Once a suicide risk assessment is done, how do we help patients weather a suicidal crisis? In Part 2, participants will learn about treatment options that can safely and effectively reduce suicide risk. Two interventions—safety planning and means safety—address the near-term safety of patients while outpatient treatments that prioritize suicidality can mitigate factors that drive suicide risk. Participants will be introduced to these interventions and their research basis.

Following the presentation, participants will be able to: 1) list ways to counsel patients and their families about the benefits of reducing access to lethal means; 2) create a safety plan; 3) discuss the research basis for suicide-specific psychotherapies.

Attendees will have access to electronic versions of the slides and handouts. Links and references will also be available to

guide further learning.

Joseph H. Obegi, Psy.D. is a licensed Senior Psychologist at California State Prison, Solano where he coordinates institutional efforts to prevent suicide. In the community, he regularly presents on topics related to suicide, delivers customized training for mental health agencies, and writes about suicide risk assessment, suicide and liability, and suicidality as a psychiatric condition.

### Saturday, April 14

7:15-8:00 Registration and Continental Breakfast

8:00-1:00 Correctional/Juvenile issues/Ethical Dilemmas  
(5 CE credits)

8:00-8:40

#### **Juvenile fitness and mitigation: Parental influences in development and drug use**

**Ines Monguio, Ph.D.**

The State can try a minor as an adult and, if so, the defense will present data to demonstrate that the minor is fit for juvenile court. The psychologist or neuropsychologist must evaluate developmental history thoroughly, including uterine. The pregnant mother's level of stress, depression, or exposure to neurotoxins affects fetal development, which may manifest in cognitive and/or emotional vulnerabilities in the child. Chronic stress during development has wide effects on functioning, such as self-modulation. The use of drugs as self-medication often results in socialization with other damaged individuals, and this information on social affiliation and drug use can be very damning. A thorough evaluation will describe the vulnerabilities in an immature brain, and paint a more complex picture beyond school records or police reports. Attendees will receive research-based information regarding important issues in the evaluation of minors beyond the usual summary evaluations ordered by the court. Attendees will be able to 1) examine factors that a judge considers at the time of making a decision of fitness; 2) discuss research regarding factors affecting fetal and early development; 3) explore a variety of soft signals on interview that can point to areas in mental and cognitive issues that must be assessed.

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

8:40-9:20

#### **Life-history based forensic evaluations in death penalty cases**

**Matthew Mendel, Ph.D.**

The sentence of death versus LWOP often comes down to the extent and quality of mitigation evidence. Dr. Mendel has evaluated defendants in approximately 150 death penalty cases involving defendants with histories of childhood abuse or trauma. In his experience, mitigation is often minimally assessed or is presented in a haphazard manner. Dr. Mendel argues that assessment based on a thorough understanding of the life history of the defendant, rather than on results of psychological testing, provides the most comprehensive—and comprehensible to the jury—view of the person charged with the murder. Attendees will be able to: 1) assess relative advantages of life-history based and psychological testing based forensic assessment and determine when it is appropriate to utilize life-history based forensic assessment; 2) summarize the relevant sources of information for completing a life-history based forensic assessment; 3) assess the roles of the multiple professionals involved in a forensic evaluation.

Matthew Mendel is a clinical and forensic psychologist with a private practice in Raleigh, North Carolina. Most of his forensic

work is in death penalty cases in which it is known or suspected that the defendant was sexually abused or otherwise traumatized during his childhood.

9:20-10:00

#### **A second chance: New direction of juvenile transfer case law** **Mark Burdick, Ph.D. and Attorney Larry Biggam**

Supreme Court case *Miller v. Alabama* changes the direction of present, future and hundreds of past juvenile transfer to adult court decisions. U.S. courts now have obligation, and judges authority to review the handling of past automatic transfer of cases to determine if juvenile defendants should have been tried as minors and granted juvenile court resources. Present day cases now require judicial review of minor's rights to sentencing under juvenile versus adult authority in broadening the power absent of legislated direction. One such high profile case in California, *A.J. Gonzales v. Superior Court of Santa Cruz* demonstrates the complexity of such judicial consideration against community outrage. A forensic psychologist and defense attorney bring the story to life. Participants will study the nature and specifics of juvenile transfer cases now up for examination where you, as a forensic psychologist or lawyer can provide expert assessment and testimony services. Participants will be able to identify the potential pitfalls of testifying as a mental health expert on cases where there exists strong community opposition to your participation as a forensic psychologist due to the nature of the crime.

Mark Burdick, Ph.D. is an educational and clinical forensic psychologist, and is court appointed in matters pertaining to juvenile and adult crime, immigration, special education evaluation and placement. Larry Biggam is an attorney with Biggam, Christensen & Minsloff in Santa Cruz, California.

10:00-10:15 Coffee Break

10:15-10:55

#### **Legal issues and practice developments in risk of violence/re-offense predictions**

**John T. Philipsborn, J.D., M.Ed.**

Recent litigations and legislative changes in pretrial release and bail schemes have caused renewed attention on the assessment of risk of violence and/or risk of re-offense of individuals whose cases are in the criminal court system. Increasingly, legal challenges to risk assessments are being undertaken in an effort to demonstrate where assessment and prediction processes either undermine constitutionally protected rights, or where the science and/or practice of risk assessment is open to question. John Philipsborn, a lawyer who has presented to ACFP on a number of occasions over more than 20 years, and a member of the Task Force on Risk Assessment of the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, will review recent challenges to risk assessment processes and will discuss issues that mental health professionals should be aware of when addressing risk assessment in criminal cases.

John Philipsborn has been a criminal defense lawyer for 40 years. He has defended a wide range of capital and non-capital cases around the United States and has represented individuals in international law matters.

10:55-1:00

#### **Reining it in: Making ethical decisions in a forensic practice** **Donna M. Veraldi, Ph.D., Lorna Veraldi, J.D., Kristine M. Jacquin, Ph.D., Jonathan C. Blasingame, MSW, Francis Abueg, Ph.D., Leon Morris, Ed.D.**

Ethical dilemmas require making difficult choices among competing ethical principles and values. This presentation will discuss ethical dilemmas arising in forensic practices.

Psychologists utilize deception and manipulative techniques so that forensic psychologists cannot just go by the rule “do no harm.” Psychologists were involved in “enhanced interrogation techniques,” and this issue raised huge controversy. What is and what is not acceptable in terms of psychologists using various forms of pressure on individuals or being involved with agencies that put pressure on individuals will be discussed. There will be a general presentation about potential ethical dilemmas followed by a panel of forensic psychologists, who will discuss their thoughts about how to approach these issues. Participants will be able to analyze ethical dilemmas, evaluate methods of approaching ethics decision-making, and identify ways to improve ethics decision-making.

Donna M. Veraldi, Ph.D. has a private clinical and forensic practice in Billings, Montana. Lorna Veraldi, J.D. is Associate Professor, School of Journalism and Mass Communication, Florida International University. Kristine M. Jacquin, Ph.D. is a Professor of Psychology and Dean at Fielding Graduate University. Jonathan C. Blassingame, MSW is a clinical psychology doctoral student at Fielding Graduate University. Francis Abueg, Ph.D. is a psychologist and owner of TraumaResource: Clinical and Forensic Psychology in Sunnyvale and Cupertino. Leon Morris, Ed.D. is in private practice in Wichita Falls, Texas.

### Sunday, April 15

7:15-8:00 Registration and Continental Breakfast  
8:00-12:00 Violent Behavior/Sexual Offender Issues  
(4 CE credits)

8:00-8:40

**Behavior changing hats: When quantitative observation becomes qualitative analysis and its own conclusion**  
**Robert L. Halon, Ph.D. and John W. Podboy, Ph.D.**

“Observation is not interpretation” governs the practices of clinical and, especially, forensic psychology. Behavior does not reveal its underlying causes but is only a starting place for a cause-effect analysis. Under specific conditions, however, behavior becomes the most reliable and only accurate means of determining whether the individual can be validly said to suffer a legally-defined mental abnormality that causes specific targeted behavior. The conditions under which behavior is transformed in this way are created by the law, not psychology or science. We will describe: the circumstances under which this transformation occurs; information necessary to recognize differences between evidence and opinion in mental health expert testimony; and how total confinement provides ideal conditions for longitudinal diagnostic study from which evidence about the behavior-cause relationship is reliably and validly obtained.

Robert L. Halon, Ph.D. is a clinical and forensic psychologist who practices in the Western United States. John W. Podboy, Ph.D. has practiced in state and federal courts for over 40 years.

8:40-9:20

**Psychologists who are stalked by their clients: The dangers of working in direct care**  
**Melissa Ring, M.A.**

Clients who engage in stalking behaviors pose a realistic problem for mental health professionals, yet this topic does not garner the attention it deserves. In this presentation, participants will learn what constitutes stalking, the motivations behind such behaviors, and why psychologists are at risk. The physical and psychological consequences of being victimized will be discussed, as well as safety tips and strategies that can be implemented to safeguard and manage client-stalking behaviors.

Melissa Ring M.A. is currently a 4th year clinical psychology doctoral student from Marywood University and is receiving training through the VA and in a federal prison.

9:20-10:00

**Pulling the wool over the fact finders’ eyes: Establishing sexual dangerousness in SVP risk assessments**  
**Brian R. Abbott, Ph.D.**

To civilly confine an individual involuntarily as a sexually violent predator requires the government to establish that the person suffers from a mental condition that causes the individual to be sexually dangerous. Government psychologists customarily employ risk assessment methodologies that rely upon pretext rather than substantive evidence to prove sexual dangerousness. Based on the presenter’s research and forensic experience conducting SVP evaluations in nine states, common risk assessment fallacies are exposed and debunked. Attendees will be able to 1) explain how declining base rates of sexual recidivism have contributed to using unreliable risk assessment procedures to establish sexual dangerousness in SVP risk assessments; 2) analyze four risk assessment methods that do not provide probative or relevant evidence to establish sexual dangerousness; 3) discuss how to conduct a forensically defensible assessment of sexual dangerousness.

Dr. Abbott has worked as a clinician, forensic evaluator, researcher, author, and trainer in the area sexual offenders and child sexual abuse, as well as in other forms of child abuse and neglect. Dr. Abbott has performed more than 1,800 forensic evaluations for criminal, civil, dependency, delinquency, and family courts.

10:00-10:15 Coffee Break

10:15-10:55

**Sex offenders: Prevention, treatment, and risk assessments**  
**John H. White, Ph.D.**

As a group, sex offenders are truly reviled in our society. Their acts range from up close and personal sexual homicides to detachment in watching child pornography. Offenders are heterogeneous, as they come from all societal domains. Over the past 10 years, prevention has shifted from “stranger-danger” and “bad touch” to becoming more aware of people in their daily environment, yet we have more registration and notification laws than ever before. Treatment relies less on clinical judgment and has moved to more evidence-based philosophies with various relapse prevention techniques extrapolated from cognitive behavioral tenets. Neuroscience has also made discoveries regarding offending behaviors. Participants will be able to 1) list newer treatment philosophies, 2) discuss relapse prevention techniques, 3) list actuarial risk assessments, and 4) describe neuroscience perspectives.

John H. White, Ph.D. is a professor of psychology at Stockton University in Galloway, New Jersey, and has a private practice in which he has been treating sex offenders for the past 20 years.

10:55-11:35

**Forensic psychological assessment, measurement and understanding of lethal violence**  
**Michael J. Perrotti, Ph.D.**

This presentation provides an exposition on the dynamics and characteristics of lethal violence as well as the concept of catathymic and overcontrolled hostility (Megargee). Hall’s work on lethal violence will be presented involving self-control, relationship of perpetrator to victim, and level of harm. Participants

will be taught to analyze a multi-factorial model of violence incorporating neurological and neuropsychological factors. Assessment methods, psychological testing, and suicide-homicide scenarios and forensics will be presented. The presentation will encompass frequently omitted diagnostic entities in lethal violence. The psychologist will learn the dynamics of stalking as well as strategies to protect the victim.

Michael J. Perrotti, Ph.D. is a clinical and forensic neuropsychologist with a private practice in Brea, California. Dr. Perrotti has offered expert testimony in a wide range of criminal cases and a diverse range of populations and typologies of violence.

11:35-12:15

**How could he do that?**

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

This theoretical and practical presentation will consider inmates and core life concepts like purpose, meaning, acceptance, hope, faith, happiness, gratitude, resilience, personal responsibility, wisdom and joy. Inmates have certain cognitive characteristics that must be taken into account when case conceptualization and treatment are considered. These characteristics will be reviewed as will the core concepts that can lead to an enhanced life. Attendees will 1) explore a cognitive-behavioral approach they can use to appropriately format inmate thoughts, feelings and behaviors; 2) learn three ways that inmates' thinking styles retard psychological growth; 3) discuss core concepts that will be operationalized into tangible learning entities.

William K. Marek, Ph.D. is a retired psychologist from the Federal Bureau of Prisons, and adjunct instructor at CSU-East Bay.

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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:** Par-

ticipants 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 timeless and 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 nine years. The lobby, meeting rooms, and intimate dining areas showcase 18th Century antiques, Baccarat crystal chandeliers, French tapestries, a harpist during high tea, and one of the first five Steinway pianos made. In addition to an excellent restaurant, the hotel has a gourmet delicatessen. The guestrooms are said to be the largest in downtown San Diego. You can catch the red electric trolley behind the hotel to get to Seaport Village, the Gaslamp Quarter (both also within walking distance of the hotel), Little Italy, Historic Old Town, and many other places.

**Hotel Reservations:** We have secured a block of rooms for the College at The Westgate Hotel at a very special rate of \$185 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 toll-free at 800-221-3802. The hotel's direct telephone number is 619-238-1818. You must identify yourself as part of the College to secure the preferred rate. You may also go to our web site: [forensicpsychology.org](http://forensicpsychology.org) for a link to make your hotel reservation online. The hotel is located at 1055 Second Avenue, San Diego, CA 92101. Room reservations must be received by March 21, 2018. Reservations made after March 21 are subject to availability at the prevailing hotel rate.

See other side for Symposium Registration Information and Registration Form.



Balboa Park California Tower Courtesy Museum of Man



Photo Courtesy of SanDiego.org

**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 21)                      \$625 College Member (after March 21)  
\$625 NonCollege Member (by March 21)                \$675 NonCollege Member (after March 21)

Student Fee: \$315 (Please provide proof of *Full-Time* student status)  
Two-Day Registration: \$445 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 21, 2018 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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34th ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM • April 12-15, 2018 • SAN DIEGO

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AFFILIATION FOR BADGE: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME OF SPOUSE/GUEST FOR BADGE: \_\_\_\_\_

AMOUNT OF PAYMENT ENCLOSED (See above registration fees) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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 Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration date: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Do you require special accommodation due to a physical disability? Please circle: Yes No If yes, we will contact you.

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Photo by Angie Bell

**American College  
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