American College of Forensic Psychology  
38th Annual Symposium  
March 30 – April 2, 2023  
San Diego • The Westgate Hotel

OVERVIEW

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.

Goal: The goal of this 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.

Disclosure of Potential Conflicts of Interest or Relevant Financial Relationships: The American College of Forensic Psychology does not receive financial or commercial support. All presenters were asked to disclose potential conflicts of interest, or relevant financial relationships with any commercial interest. All presenters reported that they have nothing to disclose.

The meetings each day will be in the Versailles Ballroom. Registration and continental breakfast each day will be outside the meeting room. Thursday night’s welcome reception will be in the Riviera Room and Terrace.

Although no changes are anticipated, it is possible that changes will be necessary to the program.

PROGRAM

Wednesday, March 29

4:00-5:30 PM Early Registration — Grand Lobby

Thursday, March 30

7:00-7:50 AM Registration and Continental Breakfast
7:50-8:00 AM Welcome and Announcements

Please sign the Attendance Sheets each day for CE credits.
8:00-12:15 Evaluating Bias and Assessing PTSD (4 CE credits)

8:00-9:00 AM
Implicit Bias
Donna M. Veraldi, Ph.D.
Implicit bias is defined as unconscious associations, beliefs, or attitudes toward any social group. It can lead to stereotyping and because it occurs at a less than conscious level, it may not be fully intentional and may be difficult to recognize or control. The purpose of this presentation is to raise awareness of how implicit bias affects us all and how to guard against having it interfere with forensic evaluations and conclusions.

Donna Veraldi, Ph.D., is retired from having practiced forensic and clinical psychology for over 40 years. She continues to live in Billings, Montana.

9:00-10:00 AM
Are Psychology, Academia, and Criminal Justice Biased?
William Marek, Ph.D.
This presentation explores the criminal and psychological literature related to bias in our profession. A lack of theoretical diversity in criminal justice could be as harmful for our work as a lack of gender, racial, or religious diversity. This homogeneity of thought could influence questions related to research, psychological innovation, groupthink, morality, social justice, hypocrisy, design implementation, methodology, evaluation, interpretation, program implementation, and likelihood of publication. This literature review addresses these issues and ties the results to the presentations of this body for the last 30 years.

William Marek, Ph.D., is a psychologist with 30 years of experience in federal and state prisons.

10:00-10:15 AM Coffee Break

10:15-11:15 AM
Neuropsychological Functioning in PTSD
Inés Monguíó, Ph.D.
The symptoms of PTSD include inability to regulate memories in an adaptive fashion, excessive memory retrieval, or memory loss, as well as difficulty concentrating. The neurocognitive factors in this disorder are not as well studied as the emotional and behavioral layers, but structural and functional neuroimaging have found data that support specific findings in PTSD patients. It is more common than not that clinicians and forensic psychologists focus on the emotional components of the disorder, and often fail in the understanding and/or management of the individual. This presentation addresses neuropsychological deficits in this population, describes research in this area, and illustrates the issues with case presentations.

Inés Monguíó, Ph.D., has been in private practice since 1991, specializing in neuropsychological assessment and treatment of individuals with acquired brain injury. Her forensic work has included extensive criminal and industrial cases and limited civil cases.
Differential Diagnosis in Assessment of Malingered vs. Substantiated PTSD Symptomatology within the Context of Personal Injury Psychological Evaluations
Mark D. Ackerman, Ph.D., and Kristine M. Jacquin, Ph.D.
This presentation focuses on the assessment of PTSD within the context of the Defense Base Act (DBA) among civilian claimants who report being psychologically injured while working overseas. The DBA extends workers’ compensation protection to individuals hired by private companies to perform specialty work while employed overseas for the U.S. government, frequently in combat zones. Some claimants are veterans who have been diagnosed with PTSD by the VA based on prior military exposure. Personal injury claims for additional psychological damages sometimes occur. In such cases, it may be difficult to determine genuine-appearing versus malingered PTSD. Due to the medico-legal context of such claims, the stakes are often high. Forensic psychologists may be consulted to assess the claimant. This presentation reviews the components of a psychological assessment battery used to help with differential diagnosis of genuine versus malingered PTSD in these cases.

Mark D. Ackerman, Ph.D., is a licensed psychologist in Georgia and Florida. His practice emphasizes forensic assessment and psychological testing and treatment. Dr. Ackerman holds adjunct faculty status with the Department of Veterans Affairs - Atlanta and Emory University School of Medicine. Kristine Jacquin, Ph.D., is a Professor and Dean at Fielding Graduate University. She is also a licensed clinical psychologist with a consulting practice focusing on forensic and neuropsychological evaluations.

12:15-1:30 PM Lunch Break (on your own)

1:30-4:45 PM Psychology of Homicide and Suicide (3 CE credits)

1:30-2:30 PM Murderous Fantasies: Content Analysis of Delusional Systems of Serial Killers
John H. White, Ph.D., and Laura Brand, B.A.
Hundreds of books and articles have been written about serial killers, yet the cause of such horrendous acts remains unclear. To gain a better understanding of their personalities, the presenters analyzed responses from 22 incarcerated serial killers as part of the Serial Killer Homicide Research Project. Many responses were quite contrary to their previous actions. It appears that many responses were either part of a denial process or woven into a delusional system. The participants’ developmental behaviors, beginning from a very early age, may be centered around various delusional thinking errors that carried over into adulthood and their victims may have been chosen because of these delusions. This presentation describes why the presenters believe that serial murder is a result of a faulty belief system that is delusional in nature. They also discuss at what point in the delusional process one can consider the killer to be insane, possibly diminishing criminal responsibility.

John H. White, Ph.D., is a former Dallas Police investigator Sergeant for the Dallas Police Department and is currently a practicing forensic psychologist and university professor in Atlantic City, New Jersey. Laura Brand, B.A., is a criminologist who has interviewed over 50 serial killers. She has spent most of the last decade interviewing the nation’s most dangerous death row inmates in San Quentin. She is currently a private detective in Los Angeles.
2:30-3:30 PM
Adolescent Suicide and Homicide: Psycho-Forensic Exploration
Jamshid A. Marvasti, M.D.
This presentation addresses adolescent suicide and homicide. Initially, the presenter examines psychological elements which may contribute to adolescent suicide. Both forensic and psychophysiological aspects of suicide are discussed including the possible neglect of mental health professionals in regard to diagnosis and prevention of suicide. Information will be shared regarding cases of malpractice against treatment providers. The presentation examines assumptions about what mental health professionals could have known before a suicide. In addition, the presenter describes psychological signs and symptoms which may indicate suicidal intent. Similarly, signs of homicidal intent in adolescents are discussed. Possible connections between school shootings and gun ownership are examined, along with side effects of medications which may contribute to suicide or aggression.

Jamshid A. Marvasti, M.D. is a child and adult psychiatrist practicing in Connecticut. He is a clinical assistant professor of psychiatry at the University of New England College of Osteopathic Medicine. He has published and edited a number of articles and books pertaining to violence.

3:30-3:45 PM Break

3:45-4:45 PM
Infanticide and Filicide in the Context of Parental Mental Illness
Infanticide typically refers to the unlawful killing of a child under the age of 1, whereas filicide is typically used to describe parents who kill children over the age of 1. Mental illness is often a risk factor in the commission of infanticide, particularly experiencing depression and/or psychosis (Naviaux et al., 2020; Raymond et al., 2021). However, differences exist between fathers and mothers in both the methods and reasoning for engaging in infanticide and filicide. The presenters define infanticide and filicide, with a focus on risk factors related to each in female and male parents, differences in methods and reasons for female and male parents, and the impact of various mental illnesses on filicide and infanticide. Issues related to assessment in the context of affirmative defenses, such as the insanity defense are considered, as well as potential implications for expert testimony on these matters.

Rebecca Smith-Casey, J.D., Psy.D. is a licensed clinical psychologist in New Jersey and Pennsylvania where she is in private practice specializing in forensic assessment in criminal and civil matters. She is also an Assistant Professor at the Chicago School of Professional Psychology. Christiana Bueno, B.A., completed her undergraduate degree in psychology with a minor in justice studies at Rhode Island College. She is currently in the dual degree Master’s program for forensic psychology and legal studies at the Chicago School of Professional Psychology and the Colleges of Law. Eric Sexton, B.A., received his undergraduate degrees in psychology and music from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Eric is pursuing a graduate degree in clinical psychology with a goal of becoming a licensed clinical psychologist.

5:30-6:30 PM Student Poster Session (Embassy Room)
5:30-6:45 PM Welcome Reception (Riviera Room and Terrace)
Friday, March 31

7:15-8:00 Registration and Continental Breakfast

8:00 AM - 12:15 PM Ethics and Practice Issues (4 CE credits)

8:00-9:00 AM
Navigating Judicial Hurdles for Effective Legal Solutions: The Agony and the Ecstasy
Valerie R. McClain, Psy.D.
This presentation focuses on judicial decision making in criminal cases when efforts to negotiate a plea or pre-trial resolution are met with either acceptance and/or resistance and rejection. Case examples will be used to illustrate the challenges associated with presenting relevant mitigation factors for consideration and the potential pitfalls and obstacles frequently encountered when attempting to resolve cases without further legal proceedings. An analysis of the application of therapeutic jurisprudence is utilized in examining how to facilitate balancing the inherent rights of the defendants and victim impact. Specific emphasis is placed on providing education on relevant mitigating factors and alternative sentencing options to non-judges including lawyers and mental health experts who play a unique role in resolving legal challenges.

Valerie R. McClain, Psy.D., is a licensed forensic psychologist who practices in Tampa, Florida. She conducts evaluations for both circuit and federal court and has been in private practice over thirty years. She conducts both court-ordered and confidential evaluations.

9:00-10:00 AM
Cross-Cultural Evaluations – Are There Standards of Practice?
John Philipsborn, J.D., M.Ed., M.A.S.
For years, the U.S. population has included a growing number of persons whose developmental history, language, cultural references, education, and principal social ties are not primarily from the United States. For years now, there has been a growing recognition of the need for mental health experts practicing in the United States to be aware of the many issues involved in understanding, evaluating, and diagnosing mental health issues. Cross-cultural issues in mental health practice are discussed in the forensic mental health literature and are increasingly recognized in and by courts. This presentation focuses on whether there are — at this point — standards of practice that apply to cross-cultural mental health assessments that have been recognized by courts and in pertinent literature. This presentation also reviews situations in which mental health experts are likely to need to display knowledge of the practice guidelines and emerging standards of practice that apply to cross-cultural assessments, and explanations for either adhering to, or departing from, them.

John Philipsborn, J.D., has been a lawyer for more than 40 years and has had recent academic affiliations with the University of California at Berkeley, and the University of Pennsylvania. He is regularly involved in cases in which forensic mental health issues are discussed and litigated.

10:00-10:15 AM Coffee Break
10:15 AM - 12:15 PM
Forensic Skills Workshop: Addressing Ethical and Practice Issues in Forensic Psychology
Donna Veraldi, Ph.D. (Moderator), Mark Ackerman, Ph.D., Valerie R. McClain, Psy.D., John H. White, Ph.D.

This forensic skills forum focuses 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 are read aloud and discussed. The vignettes describe problems and experiences that forensic psychologists often confront in their practices and in court. Attendees are exposed to a wide variety of forensic cases and problems in civil and criminal areas.

Donna Veraldi, Ph.D., is retired from having practiced forensic and clinical psychology for over 40 years. She continues to live in Billings, Montana. Mark D. Ackerman, Ph.D., is a licensed psychologist in Georgia and Florida. His practice emphasizes forensic assessment and psychological testing and treatment. Valerie R. McClain, Psy.D., is a licensed forensic psychologist who practices in Tampa, Florida. She conducts evaluations for both circuit and federal court and has been in private practice over thirty years. John H. White, Ph.D., is a former Dallas Police investigator Sergeant for the Dallas Police Department and is currently a practicing forensic psychologist and university professor in Atlantic City, New Jersey.

12:15-1:30 PM Lunch Break (on your own)

1:30-4:45 PM Sexual and Violence Risk (3 CE credits)

1:30-2:30 PM
Recent Developments in Sexual Recidivism Risk Assessment: Implications for Forensic Practice
Brian R. Abbott, Ph.D.

This paper presents recent research developments and the implications for sexual recidivism risk assessment using static and dynamic risk factors, and protective factors in the context of forensic practice related to state and federal sexually violent predator laws. Research related to sexual recidivism risk assessment using static and dynamic risk factors has practical implications in forensic practice for psychologists and attorneys. This presentation describes recent research results that affect administration and interpretation of the Static-99R, Static-2002R, Stable-2007, the Violence Risk Scale-Sex Offender Version dynamic risk measure, and protective factors. The implications of this research in forensic and legal practice are illustrated in the context of evaluating the likelihood of sexual dangerousness as defined in laws pertaining to the involuntary commitment of sexually violent predators or persons.

Brian R. Abbott, Ph.D., is licensed by the states of California and Washington as a clinical psychologist. Dr. Abbott is in independent practice based in San Jose, California and has conducted sexually violent predator evaluations for over 20 years of his 44-year career.

2:30-3:30 PM
Risk Assessment of Justice Involved Individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder: Navigating the Complexities and Co-morbidities that Intersect the Analysis of Risk
Craig Wetterer, Ph.D., J.D.

Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is a lifelong neurodevelopmental disorder. Previous studies have identified the co-occurrence of violent behaviors in some individuals with ASD. In some cases, these acts
of aggression lead to criminal prosecution, and depending on the severity of the ASD, the defendant may be found incompetent to stand trial. When charges meet certain thresholds in terms of severity, many states require the incompetent defendant to be evaluated for the risk of violence to determine whether civil commitment to a locked forensic facility is appropriate. Risk variables in persons with ASD share some commonality with non-ASD populations; however, there are unique factors that require consideration when assessing an individual with ASD for risk of violence. This presentation reviews the best practices in assessing justice involved individuals with ASD for the risk of violence, highlighting the challenges associated with these evaluations, particularly when co-morbid conditions are present. A case study is included, with an opportunity for participants to engage a risk analysis discussion.

Craig Wetterer, Ph.D., J.D., is a licensed psychologist in Nevada and California and Clinical Associate Professor at California Northstate University. Dr. Wetterer also currently works in a maximum security forensic psychiatric hospital, where he conducts forensic psychological assessments.

3:30-3:45 PM Break

3:45-4:45 PM
The Intersection of Klinefelter’s Syndrome, Autism, Executive Function Deficits, and Sexual Misconduct in Adolescent Males – Recent Research and a Case Study
Thomas F. Haworth, Ph.D.
This presentation explores Klinefelter's Syndrome, a genetic anomaly affecting 1 in 400 to 800 births and producing the XXY genotype in males. This condition causes small testes and reduced androgenization resulting in a less masculine phenotype in affected boys. Additionally, we examine the comorbidity of Klinefelter’s Syndrome with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD). We review both the physiological manifestations of these disorders, individually and in concert, and the clinical ramifications of these conditions on the individual's functioning across domains. Further, we explore the impact of comorbidity of these conditions on adolescent males' social and emotional functionality as well as their sexuality, sexual identity, gender identity, and sexual conduct and/or misconduct / sexual offending. The co-occurrence of these conditions form a unique intersection, which is discussed along with the impact of the interaction of these conditions on pathways to both non-contact and contact sexual misconduct in adolescent males.

Thomas Haworth, Ph.D., is a licensed psychologist in PA and NJ who has practiced clinically for the past 30 years and forensically for the past 21 years. He has expertise in issues related to sexual violence. Dr. Haworth has been on the faculty of Rutgers University for the past 21 years.

5:00 PM Advisory Board Meeting – Fleur de Lis

Saturday, April 1

7:15-8:00 Registration and Continental Breakfast

8:00-1:15 Hot Topics in Forensic Psychology: Ethical, Legal, and Diversity Factors (5 CE credits)

8:00-9:00 AM
Building a Forensic Psychology Practice
Rebecca Smith-Casey, J.D., Psy.D., James W. Schutte, Ph.D., and Mark Burdick, Ph.D.
Many psychologists aim to start or grow their own practice but do not receive specific training or advice about doing so. This is especially true within specialties such as forensic psychology. In this panel discussion, forensic psychologists will share their experiences and recommendations about starting and building a forensic practice, and will answer audience questions.

Rebecca Smith-Casey, J.D., Psy.D. is a licensed clinical psychologist in New Jersey and Pennsylvania where she is in private practice specializing in forensic assessment in criminal and civil matters. She is also an Assistant Professor at the Chicago School of Professional Psychology. James W. Schutte, Ph.D. is a bilingual psychologist in private practice in El Paso, Texas. His practice primarily focuses on assessment in disability claims, child protective matters, and criminal and civil litigation. Mark A. Burdick, Ph.D., is an international expert in education and psychological matters before courts in the U.S. and U.K. He provides consult and litigation support in a variety of cases involving adolescents.

9:00-10:00 AM National Guard and Reserve Members: Understanding the Impact of Military Service on Civilian Mental Health and Legal Issues
Michael Crabtree, Ph.D., and Elizabeth A. Bennett, Ph.D.
Over the last fifteen years the military has come to rely upon “citizen soldiers.” These are individuals who serve part time in either the National Guard and Reserve and are full time citizens. As these members of the “reserve component” serve in military operations, they sometimes return with behavioral and mental health issues that significantly impair their ability to function effectively in civilian life, often leading to psychological and legal issues. This presentation is designed to educate the audience about the issues that members of the military face when they return from military deployment. The presentation includes an overview of the military and military culture, research on behavioral and mental health difficulties after military deployment, and how critical incidents in civilian life can exacerbate or bring to the surface pre-existing psychological trauma from military experience. These are important issues to address if mitigation of civil or criminal charges are being considered. The types of exacerbating effects are presented. Finally, treatment recommendations are made.

Michael Crabtree, Ph.D., is a Professor of Psychology at Washington and Jefferson College where he has served for the last 45 years. Along with teaching, he has an active research program. He is the author of five books, over 30 professional publications, and hundreds of presentations on military psychology.

10:00-10:15 AM Coffee Break

10:15-11:15 AM Intimate Partner Violence in the Context of the COVID-19 Pandemic: Implications for Practice
Rebecca Smith-Casey, J.D., Psy.D.
Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) is a significant public health issue that often remains underreported to law enforcement. In the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, international agencies have reported an increase in reported incidents of IPV, however the risk factors associated with the pandemic such as policies of social distancing, self-isolation, and lockdown can precipitate episodes of IPV, while access to specialized services and health care can be compromised. Research during the pandemic further demonstrated that the economic impact of the pandemic, male unemployment, added stressors in the
home, care and home schooling of children, and social distancing were factors that contributed to increases in IPV. The COVID-19 pandemic will have wide ranging implications in mental health moving forward in the context of experienced and witnessed IPV. Considerations related to assessment and treatment of symptoms related to IPV, as well social policy lessons learned are explored in this presentation.

Rebecca Smith-Casey, J.D., Psy.D. is a licensed clinical psychologist in New Jersey and Pennsylvania where she is in private practice specializing in forensic assessment in criminal and civil matters. She is also an Assistant Professor at the Chicago School of Professional Psychology.

11:15 AM - 12:15 PM
Trauma Informed Care for Forensic Clinicians
William Marek, Ph.D.
This presentation discusses how Trauma Informed Care (TIC) can help forensic clinicians improve treatment outcomes. There are many elements of TIC that are not necessarily obvious and are not always considered even in non-forensic environments. This presentation presents its origins, the theory behind it and its practical applications. There are many real-world difficulties that would have to be overcome for a true implementation of it. The material is primarily devoted to forensic clinicians and how they can improve the difficult work they do. However, the skills and learned material are generalizable to other disciplines and non-clinicians, including wardens and other administrators.

William Marek, Ph.D., is a psychologist with 30 years of experience in federal and state prisons.

12:15-1:15 PM
Latinx Considerations in Forensic Assessment
James W. Schutte, Ph.D., and Christopher W. Schutte, A.B.
With a growing Latinx population in the U.S., it is important for forensic psychologists to understand the potential impact of language and cultural differences when assessing Latinx individuals. This presentation discusses issues of use of interpreters, test selection and interpretation, cultural differences in trauma response, and suggestions for testimony when conducting forensic evaluations of Latinx persons.

James W. Schutte, Ph.D. is a bilingual psychologist in private practice in El Paso, Texas. His practice primarily focuses on assessment in disability claims, child protective matters, and criminal and civil litigation. Christopher W. Schutte, A.B. is a multilingual postgraduate associate in the Anticevic Lab at Yale University, working on projects in computational psychiatry. His future plans include graduate school and pursuit of a doctoral degree in psychology.

Sunday, April 2

7:15-8:00 Registration and Continental Breakfast

8:00-12:15 Juvenile Forensic Psychology and Trauma Informed Care (4 CE credits)

8:00-9:00 AM
Intimate Partner Violence in Teen Relationships: Risk Factors, Prevention, and Long-Term Impacts
Intimate partner violence (IPV) has been identified as a significant public health crisis, with implications for survivors and perpetrators that can be wide ranging. While IPV has traditionally been defined as physical, psychological, or sexual violence within a romantic relationship, it can take place either in person or electronically, through digital media. Research has suggested that one out of every three females and one out of every five males will be the victim of IPV at some point in their lifetime, and IPV victimization is associated with many adverse health consequences, including development of PTSD, depression, substance use, and suicidal behaviors. In teen relationships, IPV is associated with HIV, induced abortions, eating disorders, and increased risk of teen pregnancy. When considering IPV in the context of teen relationships, the implications of electronic IPV becomes increasingly important to consider. The presentation addresses long term implications of teen IPV as well as considerations for assessment and treatment.

Rebecca Smith-Casey, J.D., Psy.D. is a licensed clinical psychologist in New Jersey and Pennsylvania where she is in private practice specializing in forensic assessment in criminal and civil matters. She is also an Assistant Professor at the Chicago School of Professional Psychology. Christiana Bueno, B.A., completed her undergraduate degree in psychology with a minor in justice studies at Rhode Island College. She is currently in the dual degree M.A. program for forensic psychology and legal studies at the Chicago School of Professional Psychology and the Colleges of Law. Amanda Barterian, B.A., completed her undergraduate degree from Western Michigan University with a specialization in psychology and applied behavior analysis. She currently attends the M.A. program in forensic psychology at the Chicago School of Professional Psychology. Eric Sexton, B.A., received his undergraduate degrees in psychology and music from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Eric is pursuing a graduate degree in clinical psychology with a goal of becoming a licensed clinical psychologist.

The California Welfare and Institutions Code (300) are state and federal standards for practitioners and organizations to follow in the treatment of youth within the judicial, social services, and educational systems. Families of troubled teens, mainly affluent, prefer not to pursue a WIC investigation in dealing with their troubled teen, because of the outcomes and stigma attached to it. Private enterprise stepped in to provide a menu of stylized adolescent behavioral health options, ranging from outdoor to indoor facilities, including boarding schools with therapeutic support. Affluent families like the Hiltons choose private options to assist in the remediation of behavior and to motivate learning. Kids "off the track" began to advance; yet not without hidden, internal resentment. Thus came about the code of silence movement in taking on a complete behavioral health industry. This presentation discusses historical and other factors leading to the #BreakingCodeSilence movement along with possible solutions.

Mark A. Burdick, Ph.D., is an international expert in education and psychological matters before courts in the U.S. and U.K. He provides consult and litigation support in a variety of cases involving adolescents.
10:15-11:15 AM
Neuropsychological Consequences of Adolescent Cannabis Use as a Mitigating Factor
Kristine M. Jacquin, Ph.D.
Research indicates that at least 1.5 million American adolescents are current marijuana users, and 2.7 million teens used in the past year. Use of marijuana is common among adolescents across the globe. Cannabis use has been associated with numerous negative outcomes for teens, including heightened risk of psychosis and other psychological problems, difficulties in school, and increased criminal behavior. These outcomes may be related to the neuropsychological changes often experienced by adolescents who regularly use marijuana. For example, criminal behavior may relate to poorer decision making that has been found in adolescent cannabis users. The possible connections between brain functioning and criminal behavior in adolescent cannabis users raises the question of whether teen marijuana use may be viewed as a mitigating factor by the courts. This presentation describes outcomes associated with adolescent marijuana use, the neuropsychological correlates of use, and applications of the research to forensic psychology.

Kristine Jacquin, Ph.D., is a Professor and Dean at Fielding Graduate University. She is also a licensed clinical psychologist with a consulting practice focusing on forensic and neuropsychological evaluations. Dr. Jacquin conducts research, teaches, and consults on legal cases related to cannabis use.

11:15 AM - 12:15 PM
Psychopharmacology for Forensic Psychologists
Kristine M. Jacquin, Ph.D.
This presentation introduces essential facts that all forensic psychologists (and other mental health professionals) should know about psychopharmacology. Attendees will learn the prevalence of substance use in the U.S., the importance of knowing about psychopharmacology, and the key psychopharmacological concepts such as pharmacodynamics and pharmacokinetics.

Kristine Jacquin, Ph.D., is a Professor and Dean at Fielding Graduate University. She is also a licensed clinical psychologist with a consulting practice focusing on forensic and neuropsychological evaluations. Dr. Jacquin conducts research, teaches, and consults on legal cases related to psychopharmacology.