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BOARD CERTIFICATION

American Board of Professional Psychology / American Board of Clinical Neuropsychology

EDUCATION

1995 Ph.D., Clinical Psychology, Neuropsychology Concentration Nova Southeastern University, Fort Lauderdale, Florida

1993 M.S., Psychology Nova Southeastern University, Fort Lauderdale, Florida

1990 B.A., Science Florida Atlantic University, Boca Raton, Florida

1979 A.A.S., Nursing (R.N.) Clinton Community College, Plattsburgh, New York

WORK EXPERIENCE

10/96-Present CO-OWNER, Christopher J. Fichera, Ph.D., Sharon M. Theroux, Ph.D. and Associates, PA., Boca Raton, Florida. Services include the assessment of adults and children for clinical and forensic purposes, and psychotherapy for individuals, couples, and families. Expert witness in both civil (personal injury, family law, disability) and criminal (competency to proceed, sanity, mitigating factors, downward departure) arenas.

1/98-1/99 CONSULTANT, St. Mary's Rehabilitation Center, West Palm Beach, Florida. Responsibilities include the provision of neuropsychological assessment and individual out-patient psychotherapy for this facility which specializes in the treatment of patient's recovering from physical injury.

10/96-1/99 CONSULTANT, National Recovery Institute, Boca Raton, Florida. Responsibilities include the provision of psychological and neuropsychological assessment for this in-patient facility that specializes in addictive disorders.

10/95-6/98 OUTPATIENT RELAPSE PREVENTION GROUP LEADER, The Renfrew Center, Deerfield Beach, Florida. Conducted weekly outpatient emotional processing groups for individuals recovering from eating disorders (anorexia, bulimia, compulsive overeating).

6/93-5/94 RESEARCH COORDINATOR, Nova University's Head Trauma Study, Fort Lauderdale, Florida. This project focused on the various neuropsychological correlates of head trauma at two level one trauma centers in Broward County (Broward General Medical Center and North Broward Medical Center). Responsibilities included the supervision of practicum students in neuropsychological testing, and in the treatment of Postconcussion Syndrome. Inservice education was provided to hospital staff regarding our study findings, and assistance was provided in data entry and analysis. Supervisor: Wiley Mittenberg, Ph.D.

5/92-5/93 CLINIC COORDINATOR, Neuropsychological Services, Nova University, Fort Lauderdale, Florida. Responsibilities included: interviewing and screening patients for neuropsychological evaluation, scheduling patient appointments, supervising doctoral students in the administration of neuropsychological tests, and performing neuropsychological evaluations (including neuropsychological and personality testing, clinical interview, interpretation, and report preparation). Supervisor: Wiley Mittenberg, Ph.D.

12/91-4/92 TEACHING ASSISTANT, Nova University, Fort Lauderdale, Florida. Conducted teaching lab on the application of biofeedback to doctoral students in Psychobiology and Psychopharmacology.

1980-1990 REGISTERED NURSE, Coronary Care and Intensive Care units, Plantation General Hospital, Plantation, Florida. Certified CCRN (Critical Care Registered Nurse) and in ACLS (Advanced Cardiac Life Support).

AWARDS

1997 Recipient of the Nelson Butters Award for Research Contributions to Clinical Neuropsychology

POST DOCTORAL TRAINING

9/99-2/01 Lake Worth Medical Center, Lake Worth, Florida. Out-patient referrals originated from attending neurologists, orthopedic surgeons, anesthesiologists and primary care physicians. Responsibilities included neuropsychological examinations of adults and children with such medical diagnoses as head injury, stroke, epilepsy, neoplasm, dementias (dementia of the Alzheimer's type, vascular dementias), Bipolar Disorder, Major Depression, ADHD, LD and chronic pain. Individual therapy/biofeedback-assisted relaxation therapy was also provided. Post-doctoral supervision in neuropsychological assessment by Wiley Mittenberg, Ph.D., ABPP/ABCN, a board-certified neuropsychologist and professor at Nova Southeastern University.

10/95-10/96 Psychological Services Group, Boca Raton, Florida. Resident responsibilities included the provision of psychodiagnostic evaluations (psychological, psychoeducational, and neuropsychological assessment) of children and adults, individual and group psychotherapy, and biofeedback-assisted relaxation therapy for this private group practice. Supervisors: Michael Adamse, Ph.D. and Carlton Gass, Ph.D.

INTERNSHIP

9/94-8/95 Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Miami, Florida. Fully accredited by the American Psychological Association. General intern responsibilities included neuropsychological examinations, the provision of long-term psychotherapy, the completion of psychological assessment batteries, and attendance at weekly educational seminars and Case Conferences. Additional educational seminars were offered by the University of Miami School of Medicine on a weekly basis.

INTERNSHIP ROTATIONS

3/95-8/95 CLINICAL NEUROPSYCHOLOGY

The clinical neuropsychology rotation satisfied the pre-doctoral requirements for a neuropsychology internship established by Division 40 of the American Psychological Association. This six-month rotation provided training in basic principles of neuropsychological assessment, use of MMPI-2 with neurologic patients, functional neuroanatomy, and neuropathology. Assessment focused on clinical interviews, observations, administration of a standardized battery, norm-referenced scoring, test interpretation and report writing. Common diagnostic groups included dementia, traumatic brain injury, stroke, chronic alcoholism, Parkinsonism, schizophrenia, PTSD, bipolar disorder, depression and multiple sclerosis. A broad range of referral questions from throughout the medical center included those related to differential diagnosis, delineation of competency, measuring changes over time, and assisting in planning a program of rehabilitation. Training in functional neuroanatomy and neuropathology was provided through didactic presentations, attendance at brain cutting, and attendance at weekly Neurology and Neuropathology Grand Rounds at the University of Miami School of Medicine. Supervisor: Carlton Gass, Ph.D.

9/94-11/94 BEHAVIORAL MEDICINE and REHABILITATION

This inpatient medical unit rotation focused on the patients' adjustment to disability and their compliance with treatment. Inpatients on the Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Service included veterans recovering from and adapting to traumatic brain injury, strokes, amputation, orthopedic surgery, neurosurgery, and other medical conditions. Training included behavioral medicine interventions, psychological assessment, neuropsychological screening; brief psychotherapy, group and family interventions, cognitive retraining, and neurocollaboration with other disciplines that comprised the multidisciplinary team. Supervisors: Timothy Lawler, Ph.D. and Diane Polakoff, Psy.D.

12/94-2/95 THE COMPREHENSIVE TREATMENT PROGRAM

The CTP is a 25-bed program for open ward treatment of a variety of problems requiring intensive psychotherapeutic efforts. These include anxiety and depressive disorders, major psychiatric disorders with alcohol withdrawal and alcohol rehabilitation, including patients with MICA (mentally ill chemically addicted). The program utilized a multidisciplinary assessment, individual therapy, group process therapy, psychoeducation groups, and family interventions. Supervisor: Teresa Rosario, Ph.D.

CLINICAL PRACTICA

9/91-8/92 NEUROPSYCHOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

Nova University Neuropsychological Services, Fort Lauderdale, Florida. Adult and child outpatient referrals from physicians, hospitals, attorneys, and public clinics. Patient diagnosis and syndromes included the following: Closed Head Injury, Dementia (Parkinson's Alcoholic and Alzheimer's type), Seizure Disorder, Delirium secondary to hypoxia, Learning Disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder, Depression, Bipolar Disorder. Neuropsychological instruments used: WAIS-R, WISC-R, WISC-III, McCarthy Scales, WMS-R, WRAML, MMPI-2, BDI, CBCL, Conners Parent and Teacher Checklist, Vineland Adaptive Behavior Scale, VMI, WRAT-R, PIAT-R, PPVT-R, RAVLT, Rey Osterrieth Complex Figure, Grooved Pegboard, Depth Perception, Judgment of Line Orientation, Wisconsin Card Sort, Stroop Neuropsychological Screening Test, Boston Naming Test, Folstein Mini Mental State, Multilingual Aphasia Exam, Reitan-Klove Sensory Perceptual Exam, and the Halstead Reitan Neuropsychological Test Battery for Adults and Children. Neuropsychological evaluations included clinical interview, neuropsychological and personality testing, interpretation, and report preparation. Supervisor: Wiley Mittenberg, Ph.D., ABPP-CN

9/91-8/92 BIOFEEDBACK/THERAPY

Nova University Community Mental Health Center, Ft. Lauderdale, Florida. Adult outpatient referrals from physicians, neurologists, orthopedists, psychologists and public clinics. Responsibilities included: intake assessments using clinical interview and the MMPI-2, individual psychotherapy (using biofeedback techniques, cognitive behavioral therapy, Jacobsonian Progressive Muscle Relaxation, passive muscle relaxation, diaphragmatic breathing, visual imagery), and group therapy for chronic pain. Patient diagnoses and syndromes included the following: Psychological Factors Affecting Physical Condition, Migraine and Tension Headaches, Chronic Pain. Supervisor: Doyle Montgomery, Ph.D. and Cheryl Gotthelf, Ph.D.

9/92-9/93 DUAL DIAGNOSIS PROGRAM

Nova Community Mental Health Center, Fort Lauderdale, Florida. Adult outpatient referrals generated from psychiatric hospitals, community substance abuse programs, and the Broward County Court System. Patient diagnosis and syndromes included those individuals diagnosed with a substance abuse/dependency problem in addition to a major psychiatric disorder. Responsibilities included: intake assessments using clinical interview and the MMPI-2, individual and group psychotherapy with patients diagnosed with Schizophrenia, Major Depression, Dysthymia, Bipolar Disorder, Agoraphobia, and various personality disorders. Psychotherapeutic approach utilized included psychodynamic as well as cognitive-behavioral techniques. Supervisors: Alan Kent, Ph.D., Bady Quintar, Ph.D.

PUBLICATIONS

Mittenberg, W., Theroux, S., Aguila-Puentes, G., Bianchini, K., Greve, K., and Rayls, K. (2001). Identification of Malingered Head Injury on the Wechsler Adult Intelligence Scale – 3rd Edition. The Clinical Neuropsychologist, 15 (4), 440-445.

Rayls, K.R., Mittenberg, W., Burns, W., & Theroux, S. (2000). A Prospective Study of the MMPI-2 Correction Factor After Mild Head Injury. The Clinical Neuropsychologist, 4 (1), 1-5.

Mittenberg, W., Ustarroz, J.T., Zielinski, R., Arbonies, A.C., Fichera, S., & Ferreras, A.A. (1999). Postconcussional syndrome: A guide to treatment with patients. Anales de Psiquiatria, 15, 315-323.

Mittenberg, W., Tremont, G., Fichera S., Zielinski, R., & Rayls, K., (1996). Cognitive behavioral prevention of post concussion syndrome. Archives of Clinical Neuropsychology, 11 (2), 139-145.

Fichera, S., Mittenberg, W., Zielinski, R., Rayls, K., & Tremont, G. (1995). Frontal and subcortical contributions to the severity of post traumatic agitation. Archives of Clinical Neuropsychology, 10 (4), 325-326.

Zielinski, R., Theroux-Fichera, S., Rayls, K., Tremont, G. & Mittenberg, W. (1995). The effects of alcohol on neuropsychological functioning following head injury. Archives of Clinical Neuropsychology, 10, (4), 409.

Mittenberg, W., Theroux-Fichera, S., Zielinski, R. & Heilbronner, R. (1995). Identification of Malingered Head Injury on the Wechsler Adult Intelligence Scale, Revised. Professional Psychology: Research and Practice, 26 (5), 491-498.

Theroux-Fichera, S., Weinstein, J.M., Zielinski, R., Gold, S., & Mittenberg, W. (1994). Recovery of Temporal Orientation after head injury. The Clinical Neuropsychologist, 8, 344.

Fichera, S., Zielinski, R., Tremont, G. & Mittenberg, W. (1994) Psychometric Properties of the Agitated Behavior Scale. Archives of Clinical Neuropsychology, 9, 127.

Fichera, S., Zielinski, R., & Mittenberg, W. (1993). Neuropsychological Correlates of Post-Traumatic Agitation. Journal of Clinical and Experimental Neuropsychology, 15, 105.

PUBLICATIONS

Mittenberg, W., Zielinski, R., & Fichera, S. (1993). Recovery from Mild Head Injury: A Treatment Manual for Patients. Psychotherapy in Private Practice, 12 (2), 37-52.

Zielinski, R., Theroux-Fichera, S., Tremont, G., Rayls, K.R. & Mittenberg, W. (1993). Normative Data for the Agitated Behavior Scale. The Clinical Neuropsychologist, 8 (3), 348.

Zielinski, R.E., Fichera, S.M. & Mittenberg, W. (1993). Vocabulary as a premorbid indicator of IQ in head injury. The Clinical Neuropsychologist, 15 (4), 335.

PRESENTATIONS

7/9/2009 "Preparing for Board Certification by ABPP – Career Progression", presented at the Florida Psychological Association's Annual Convention, Manalapan, Florida.

6/9/2006 "Recovery of Mild Head Injury", presented to practicum students and interns at the Center for Group Counseling, Boca Raton, Florida

11/18/2000 "Identification of Malingered Head Injury on the WAIS-III", presented to the National Academy of Neuropsychology 20th Annual Conference in Orlando, Florida.

9/17/97 "Supervision for Psychologists and Dietitians/Nutritionists" presented with Christie Caggiani, RD, LDN to the Nutrition Entrepreneurs Meeting in Boca Raton, FL

6/6/97 "Developing Intimacy Through the Therapeutic Relationship" presented to mental health practitioners for continuing education credits at the Renfrew Center, Florida.

7/11/96 "Pain and How To Help Yourself: Relaxation and Biofeedback" presented to the general public at the West Boca Community Outreach Center, Boca Raton, FL

6/27/95 "Cognitive-Behavioral Prevention of Postconcussional Syndrome" presented to the Dept. of Veterans Affairs Medical Center psychology staff.

2/9/95 "End of Life Treatment Decisions" presented in corroboration with a Multidisciplinary treatment team from Dept. of Veterans Affairs Medical Center to freshman medical students at the University of Miami School of Medicine, Miami, Florida.

11/3/94 "Frontal and subcortical contributions to the severity of post-traumatic agitation" presented at the 1994 National Academy of Neuropsychology Meeting in Orlando, Florida.

10/6-7/93 "Behavioral Management of The Agitated Patient" presented to trauma nurses at University of Miami/Jackson Memorial Medical Center.

10/13/92 "Psychosocial Aspects of Critical Care Nursing" presented at Plantation General Hospital as a component of their Critical Care Curriculum.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Diplomate

American Board of Professional Psychology/American Board of Clinical Neuropsychology

Member

2007 - Present American Academy of Clinical Neuropsychology

2004 - Present Florida Psychological Association

1999 - Present International Neuropsychological Society

1993 - Present National Academy of Neuropsychology

1991 - Present American Psychological Association (Division 40: Clinical Neuropsychology)

REFERENCES

Available on request