



JEFFERSON NEUROBEHAVIORAL GROUP

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MEGAN CIOTA, PH.D.

Curriculum Vitae

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EDUCATION

Ph.D. University of Georgia
Major: Clinical Psychology, Behavioral Medicine Track

MS University of Georgia
Major: Clinical Psychology

BA State University of New York at Binghamton
Graduated with Honors in Psychology
Major: Psychology

Internship: Veterans Affairs Medical Center at New Orleans 8/96 – 7/97
Neuropsychology Specialty

Neuropsychology Fellowship: Veterans Affairs Medical Center at Boston &
Department of Neurology at Boston University 9/98 – 9/99

LICENSURE

Louisiana Licensed in Both Clinical & Neuropsychologist Subspecialties: License Number 866

ACADEMIC AFFILIATION

Department of Psychiatry and Neurology, Tulane School of Medicine, Clinical Instructor

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS AND ORGANIZATIONS

Affiliate of American Academy of Clinical Neuropsychology
American Psychological Association
International Society of Neuropsychology
Louisiana Psychological Association
National Academy of Neuropsychology
Psi Chi, National Honor Society in Psychology

HOSPITAL AFFILIATIONS

East Jefferson General
West Jefferson Medical Center
Touro Infirmary

CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY • NEUROPSYCHOLOGY • BEHAVIORAL MEDICINE
RESEARCH - ASSESSMENT - INTERVENTION - FORENSIC CONSULTATION - REHABILITATION

*Please forward all correspondence to our main office:
3939 Houma Blvd, Suite #223, Metairie LA 70005*

CLINICAL EXPERIENCE

10/00 – Current

Clinical Psychologist/ Neuropsychologist

Jefferson Neurobehavioral Group
Metairie, LA

Specializing in neuropsychological evaluation, psychological evaluation, behavioral medicine, and treatment in both out and in-patient settings. Provide assessment and/or treatment to a variety of patient populations including head injury and neurologic patients, chronic pain patients, individuals with compromised health and/or cognitive functioning, and individuals with psychopathology including affective, anxiety, personality, psychotic, and/or behavioral disorders. Serve child, adolescent, adult, and geriatric populations. Serve the East Jefferson Medical Center In-Patient Rehabilitation Unit. Serve as adjunct faculty at Tulane Department of Neurology. Privileges are held at West Jefferson Medical Center, East Jefferson General Hospital, and Touro Infirmary.

8/99 - 10/00

Psychologist for Cooperative Study

Boston VA Medical Center
Boston, MA

Served as the clinical psychologist on the Gulf War Illness Exercise/ Behavioral Therapy Treatment Trial study for Gulf War veterans with fatigue, muscle/joint pain, and cognitive complaints following deployment to the Persian Gulf. Responsibilities included delivering a cognitive/behavioral treatment protocol to veterans, monitoring progress, and reporting Boston's results to central headquarters. Also involved with screening veterans to determine appropriateness for participation in study and collecting psychological data at baseline and post-treatment.

In addition to study responsibilities, served as a member of the Behavioral Medicine and Neuropsychological teams of the Psychology Department at the Boston VA Medical Center. Supervised graduate and internship level students' cases, performed individual and group therapy, and conducted pre-surgical psychological evaluations and neuropsychological assessments, in addition to participating in neurology rounds and treatment planning.

9/98 - 8/99

Neuropsychology Postdoctoral Fellow

Boston University Department of Neurology/ Boston VA Medical Center
Boston, MA

Major responsibilities included performing neuropsychological evaluations from multiple referral sources in the Boston Veterans Medical Center including neurology, medicine, psychiatry, psychology, rehabilitation, and outpatient clinic services. Neuropsychological fellow for the Boston University Neurological Associates service performing assessments of community-based patients with a variety of referral and diagnostic questions including the cognitive functioning consequences of toxin exposure, head injury, learning disabilities, Parkinson's Disease and other CNS disease in children and adult populations. Overall, approximately 4-5 assessments were performed weekly.

In addition to assessment, participated in weekly Neuropsychology Case Conference during which patient testing was reviewed and specific disorders and their neuropsychological sequelae

were identified and discussed. Participated in weekly Neurobehavioral/Aphasia rounds where there was opportunity for an interdisciplinary approach to patient assessment and care. For these rounds, responsibilities included the neuropsychological testing of patient and presentation of neuropsychological findings 1-2 times per month. Participated in the Behavioral Neurology Treatment Planning Team, an interdisciplinary approach to patient care. In addition, participated in weekly Neurology Bed Rounds.

9/97 – 6/98 *Practicum Post-Intern Supervisor*
University of Georgia Psychology Clinic
Athens, GA

Responsible for the supervision of junior graduate students enrolled in the doctoral clinical psychology program. Assisted in developing clinical skills by aiding in students' session planning, assessment, case conceptualization, treatment planning and implementation, as well as evaluation of treatment progress.

9/97 – 6/98 *Co-Therapist, Cancer Group*
and Psychology Clinic
1/95-6/96 University of Georgia

Co-lead a support group for individuals with cancer. Originally founded this group along with another student in order to broaden clinical experiences, to gain training with a medical population, and to help fill a need for psychological service for those individuals with a cancer diagnosis in the community.

8/96 - 7/97 *Psychology Intern, Neuropsychology Specialty*
Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center
New Orleans, LA

The training year consisted in the following rotations: behavioral medicine, neuropsychology, DePaul hospital's inpatient child and adolescent units and the Nursing Home Care Unit.

Rotation in Behavioral Medicine included transplant appropriateness assessment, pain management, bio-feedback, group therapy, individual therapy, psycho-education and supportive therapy for both in and out-patients with infectious disease, cancer, cardiac damage and renal difficulties.

Requirements consistent with the guidelines established by the Task Force on Education, Accreditation and Credentialing of the International Neuropsychological Society and Division 40 of the American Psychological Association were met for training in Neuropsychology with the second and third rotations' primary focus on this area. Worked in collaboration with neurologists to assist in the diagnosis of neurological syndromes, provide diagnostic descriptions of impairments, define spared cognitive skills, outline patient management strategies, and aid in assisting patients with adaptive living skills. Major emphasis was on the development of assessment skills including the use of clinical interviews and behavioral observations, the administration of both mental status exams and more formal neuropsychological test batteries, and the integration of this information into written reports useful for referral source.

The Nursing Home Care Unit experience focused on geriatric neuropsychological assessment and neurological conditions that manifest in this population. The unit served veterans whose

medical or neurological disorder precluded independent functioning. Worked in an interdisciplinary rehabilitative setting, including participation in weekly team treatment and discharge planning.

At DePaul Hospital, the training focused on neuropsychological evaluation of children and adolescents referred to this private hospital's inpatient unit. In addition to assessments, facilitated therapy process groups and assisted staff in understanding neuropsychological deficits and how to plan treatment accordingly.

In addition, yearlong therapy cases were seen. Training experience also included neuroanatomy class and brain cuttings at the Tulane Medical School, a weekly Neurology Case Conference at the VAMC, a weekly seminar in Neuropsychology, and bi-weekly seminar in Child neuropsychological assessment at DePaul Hospital.

9/95 - 6/96 ***Therapist Clinical Practicum Team***
Psychology Clinic
University of Georgia

Outpatient based assessment and treatment of adult patients conducted primarily from behavioral and cognitive behavioral perspectives. In addition to individual therapy cases, conducted court-ordered and privately referred assessments of deviant sexual behavior and paraphilic disorders. This additional experience included furnishing comprehensive reports to the court.

9/94 - 6/95 ***Assessment, Clinical Practicum Team***
Psychology Clinic
University of Georgia

The primary focus of this practicum was assessment of individuals applying for disability from the Social Security Commission. Assessments performed included behavioral medicine, neuropsychological, and psychological assessment. In addition to the assessments, outpatient based neuropsychological assessment and treatment with an adult population was part of the practicum experience.

9/93 - 6/94 ***Therapist, Clinical Practicum Team***
Psychology Clinic
University Of Georgia

Adult assessment and treatment in an outpatient setting were the focus of this practicum. Assessment and therapy were conducted from a primarily cognitive-behavioral orientation and complimented with techniques from other disciplines.

9/93 - 6/94 ***Clinic Assistant, Assistantship***
Psychology Clinic
University of Georgia

Conducted intake interviews with adult, adolescent, and child clients presenting in an outpatient setting. Served as initial contact for incoming clients, performed initial intake interview and triage, furnished reports to the clinical staff, and provided case management until a primary therapist was assigned. Attended meetings relevant to the procedure and policy of the clinic, such as child services

meetings, and reported changes in laws and policies to the clinical staff. In addition, remained performed call to handle client emergencies.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Jefferson Neurobehavioral Group: October 2000 to current

Participate in development of projects, collection of data, and writing of manuscripts for publication in peer-reviewed journals. Performed blind review of manuscript for a peer-reviewed journal.

Psychologist for Cooperative Study: August 1999 to October 2000

As noted above, served as the Boston Division Psychologist on a 20-site study of Persian Gulf War Veterans. In addition to providing intervention and intake information, collected and tracked data for Boston's site and communicated and coordinated with headquarters.

Boston VA Medical Center/ Department of Neurology at Boston University: September 1998 to October 2000

Collected data by conducting interviews and neuropsychological testing for studies involving toxin exposure, Parkinson's disease, and posttraumatic stress disorder.

Doctoral and Master's Research-University of Georgia: September 1993 to June 1998.

Title: The Impact of Self-Esteem on Responsiveness to Performance Feedback, Anxiety, and Pain Indices

MA Title: The role of psychological variables in buffering anxiety and autonomic arousal during painful stimulus.

Visiting Researcher, June 1994 - September 1994:

Location: State University of New York at Stony Brook,
Stony Brook Hospital & Psychology Department

Designed and implemented a study, assisted with data collection and analysis, wrote literature review, and supervised research assistants for the Stony Brook Pregnancy Project. Research focused on pregnant women who have high-risk pregnancies because of maternal disease or a history of previous miscarriage. In particular, the relationship among psychological variables, anxiety, and coping were examined.

Research Assistant, June 1992 to May 1993

Location: State University of New York at Binghamton

Conducted subject interviews and assisted with data collection and management. Research focused on smoking cessation. In particular, treatment programs were designed and implemented focusing on the use of cognitive and behavioral methods in a group setting.

PUBLICATIONS

Greve, K. W., Bianchini, K. J., Heinly, M. T., Love, J. M., Swift, D. A., Megan Ciota, M. (2008). Classification accuracy of the Portland Digit Recognition Test in Persons Claiming Exposure to Environmental and Industrial Toxins. *Archives of Clinical Neuropsychology*. 23, 341-350

Greve, K.W., Bianchini, K.J., Black, F.W., Heinly, M.T., Love, J.M., Swift, D.A., & Ciota, M.A. (2006). The prevalence of cognitive malingering in persons reporting exposure to occupational and environmental substances. *Neurotoxicology*, Jul 6.

Greve, K.W., Bianchini, K.J., Black, F.W., Heinly, M.T., Love, J.M., Swift, D.A., & Ciota, M.A. (2006). Classification accuracy of the Test of Memory Malingering in persons reporting exposure to environmental and industrial toxins: Results of a known-groups analysis. *Archives of Clinical Neuropsychology*, 24.

Greve, K. W., Springer, S., Bianchini, K. J., Black, F. W., Heinly, M. T., Love, J. M., Swift, D. A., Ciota, M. (2007). Malingering in Toxic Exposure: Classification Accuracy of Reliable Digit Span and WAIS-III Digit Span Scaled Scores. *Assessment*, 14, 12-21.

Etherton, J.L., Bianchini, K. J., Ciota, M. A., Heinly, M.T., & Greve, K. W. (2006). Pain, malingering and the WAIS-III Working Memory Index. *The Spine Journal*, 6, 61-71.

Etherton, J. L., Bianchini, K. J., Greve, K. W., & Ciota, M. A. (2005). Test of memory malingering performance is unaffected by laboratory-induced pain: implications for clinical use. *Archives of Clinical Neuropsychology*, May;20(3); 375-384.

Etherton, J. L., Bianchini, K. B., Greve, K. W., & Ciota, M. A. (2005). Reliable digit span is unaffected by laboratory-induced pain: implications for clinical use. *Assessment*, 12 (1), 101-106.

PRESENTATIONS

Ciota, M., Mori, D., Dettmer, E. (2000). Coping style and depression in patients with end-stage renal disease (EsrD). *Proceedings of the Society for Behavioral Medicine*

Dettmer, E., Mori, D., Ciota, M. (2000). Religiosity as a buffer in individuals with end stage renal disease (EsrD). *Proceedings of the Society for Behavioral Medicine*,

Given, M., Zeichner, A., & Ciota, M. (1997). Effects of self-esteem on self-monitoring on physiologic recovery from acute pain. *Proceedings of the Society for Behavioral Medicine*, p. 207.

Given, M., Ciota, M. & Zeichner, A. (1996). Effects of frequent self-monitoring on pain during acute pain. *Convention Proceedings for the 30th AABT Annual Convention*, p. 187.

Ciota, M. A. (May, 1995) Sexual dysfunction and aging. Paper presented to the Sixth Annual Convention in Gerontology and Geriatrics. Athens, Ga.

Ciota, M., Lobel, M., Yali, A. (November, 1995) Anxiety, self-esteem, and coping style during high-risk pregnancy. *Paper presented to the 29th Annual convention for Advancement of Behavior Therapy*. Washington, DC.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Clinical Instructor – 2001 – Occasional. Tulane University School of Medicine. Dept. of Psychiatry and Neurology

Graduate Teaching Instructor Assistantship - September 1997-June 1998
University of Georgia, Psychology of Adjustment (PSY 258)

Graduate Teaching Assistant- Assistantship, September 1995 – June 1996
University of Georgia, Psychopathology, Child Psychopathology, Ethics

Undergraduate Teaching Assistant, January 1992 - May 1992
State University of New York at Binghamton, Statistics