

Disclosures

Rae Anne Ho Fung, PhD, LP, and Christopher Takala, DO, have each declared that they do not, nor does their family have, any financial relationship in any amount occurring in the last 12 months with a commercial interest whose products or services are discussed in the presentation.

The presenters have each declared that they do not have any relevant non-financial relationships. Additionally, all planners involved do not have any financial relationships.

Upon completion of the instructional program, participants should be able to:

- 1. List three treatment barriers unique to the intersection of identity and mental health conditions among individuals with trauma histories and experiences of marginalization.
- 2. Identify at least three symptoms common to various psychiatric disorders and engage in differential diagnosis with attention to the role of identity.
- 3. Name the three brain structures related to posttraumatic stress symptoms, as well as identify current evidence-based approaches to pharmacological management of posttraumatic stress disorder.

What we'll cover in this webinar

The role of identity in diagnosis

- · Diagnostic overlaps and intersection of identity
- · Pediatric trauma prevalence

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 Alternative explanations: Research on intersectionality of identity and mental healthrelated stigma

The role of identity in treatment

- · Brief overview of neuroanatomy of trauma
- · Review of pharmacological treatments for
- · Review of evidence based behavioral
- · Recommendations and future directions

Moderated Q&A

Presenter subjectivities

Dr. Rae Anne Ho Fung

- · Professional identities
- · Clinical Director
- · Counseling Psychologist, PhD, LP
- · Trauma Psychologist, Supervisor, Mentor
- Former 4th/5th grade teacher
- · Personal identities
- · She/her/hers
- White, cis-gender female, heterosexual, ablebodied, social justice advocate, OIF Army Veteran
- · Partner, mother

Dr. Christopher Takala

- · Professional identities
- · Medical Director of Rogers Brown Deer campus
- · Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine
- Board Certified Child & Adolescent Psychiatry, Adult Psychiatry, and Addiction Medicine
- · Personal identities
- He/him/his
- White, cis-gender male, heterosexual, Mental Health Advocate, construction worker, percussionist
- · Partner, father

We acknowledge that our experience, intersectionality, privilege – and lack thereof – inform what we each bring to our research, clinical practice, and teaching



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Case study: Jasmine

- **A**: 16
- D: ADHD, ODD, CD, MDD, PTSD,GD,
- D: Unspecified communication disorder (speech interventions & Headstart); STD
- R: Believes in God; No active religion
- E: African American, American Indian, and white (Identifies as Black)
- S: Bi-sexual; Multiple partners
- S: Low SES, full time student
- I: American Indian heritage
- N: U.S. born
- **G**: Transgender female (she/her)

Jasmine is a 16-year-old Black transgender female diagnosed with ADHD, Oppositional Defiant Disorder, Conduct Disorder, Major Depressive Disorder, PTSD, Gender Dysphoria, and Cannabis Use Disorder. She has been psychiatrically hospitalized nine times 2017 – 2022 for aggression, suicidal ideation with plan (two attempts), and self injurious behavior (started at age 11).

Jasmine is the fifth of nine siblings and lives with her mother. She has a complex psychosocial history including unstable living environment, eviction, and witnessing interpersonal violence by her father including the murder of her step-mother. Her father has been incarcerated since she was 5 years old.

Jasmine has a history of engaging in sex work for money and currently has multiple sexual partners. She currently uses nicotine and marijuana with a history of trying other substances. Jasmine is concerned about alcohol use and abstains.

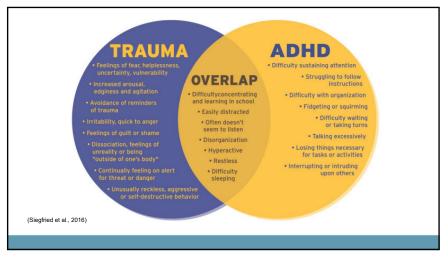
She was first hospitalized in 2017 after she threated to kill herself, told teachers she hoped they would die, pushed a teacher, engaged in other physically aggressive behaviors in school, and generally did not follow school behavioral expectations (e.g., would leave classroom).

What diagnosis is it?

- · Difficulty concentrating and learning in school
- Easily distracted
- · Often doesn't seem to listen
- Disorganization
- Hyperactive
- Restless

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· Difficulty sleeping



What diagnosis is it?

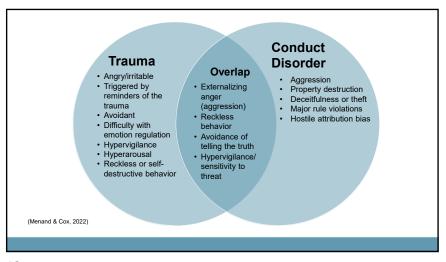
- · Irritable, easily angered
- Temper loss
- Defiance
- · Argumentative
- Easily annoyed

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Trauma ODD Angry/irritable · Angry/irritable mood Overlap Triggered by Often loses temper or · Irritable, easily reminders of the becomes dysregulated angered · Extremely sensitive, trauma · Easily triggered/ Avoidant easily annoyed or touchy · Difficulty with offended · Difficulty with emotion regulation Argumentative emotion · Refuses to comply with Hypervigilance regulation Hyperarousal requests or rules Defiance · Reckless or self-· Deliberately annoys destructive behavior Argumentative others Easily annoyed · Blames others for mistakes or behavior · Malicious or mean to (Kuban, 2011)

What diagnosis is it?

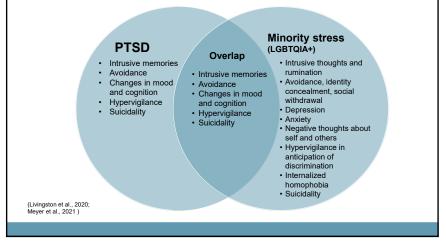
- Externalizing anger (aggression)
- · Reckless behavior
- Avoidance of telling the truth
- · Hypervigilance/ sensitivity to threat



What diagnosis is it?

- · Intrusive memories
- Avoidance
- · Changes in mood and cognition
- Hypervigilance
- Suicidality

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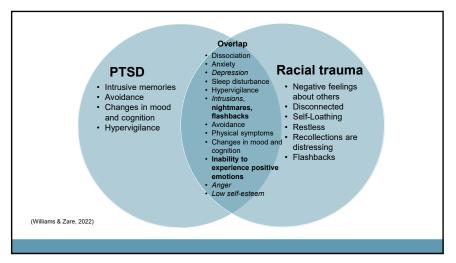


What diagnosis is it?

- Dissociation
- Anxiety
- Depression
- · Sleep disturbance
- Hypervigilance
- Intrusions, nightmares, flashbacks
- Avoidance
- · Physical symptoms
- · Changes in mood and cognition
- · Inability to experience positive emotions
- Anger

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Low self-esteem





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Trauma exposure and PTSD prevalence (general population, binary gender categories)

- - PTSD prevalence 3-15% girls, 1-6% boys (NCTSI, 2023)
- · Approximately 60% of adults experience a PTE
 - PTSD prevalence 8% women, 4% men (National Center for PTSD)

The intersection of identity and trauma: LGBTQ

- Trauma at higher rates than general population
- PTSD prevalence
 - Lesbian, gay, bisexual (LGB) 1.3 47.6%
 - Transgender and gender diverse (TGD) 17.8 42%
- Added stress related to polices that fail to protect from discrimination at work, housing, and public spaces

(Livingston et al., 2020)

The intersection of identity and trauma: BIPOC

- Racial trauma prevalence (Williams & Zare, 2022)
 - Black Americans, 47.4%
 - · Asian Americans, 22.6%
 - · Hispanic Americans, 50%
- PTSD prevalence (Grau et al., 2022)
 - Black Americans, 8.7% 9.1%
 - · Asian Americans, 2%
 - Latinx, 5.6 6.5%

- 71% of counselors report encountering patients with racebased trauma experiences (Hemmings & Evans, 2018 as cited in Williams, Haeny, & Holmes, 2021)
- Exposure to race-related stressors accounted for 20% variance in PTSD symptoms

(Loo et al., 2001 as cited in Williams, Haeny, & Holmes, 2021)

FLORES, TSCHANN, DIMAS, PASCH, AND DE GROAT Perceived Discrimination Perceived Discrimination Perceived Discrimination Posttraumatic Stress Symptoms Alcohol Use 1.8* Posttraumatic Stress Symptoms Number of Sexual Partners Figure 1. Mediational model predicting health risk behaviors. * p < .05. ** p < .01. *** p < .001.

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Impact of trauma: Gendered racial microaggressions

Table 2
Hierarchical Linear Regression of Microaggressions, Discrimination, and Trauma Symptoms and Cognitions Entered Separately

Dependent variables	В	Standard error	Standardized coefficients beta	t	p
Total PTSD symptoms					
HIV-related discrimination	4.033	1.660	.267	2.429	.018
Race-related discrimination	2.317	1.213	.212	1.907	.061
Gendered racial microaggression-A	9.943	3.184	.344	3.123	.003
Gendered racial microaggression- F	10.251	3.379	.323	3.034	.003

Alternative explanations

Jasmine is a 16-year-old Black transgender female diagnosed with ADHD, Oppositional Defiant Disorder, Conduct Disorder, Major Depressive Disorder, PTSD, Gender Dysphoria, and Cannabis Use Disorder. She has been psychiatrically hospitalized nine times 2017 – 2022 for aggression, suicidal ideation with plan (two attempts), and self injurious behavior (started at age 11).

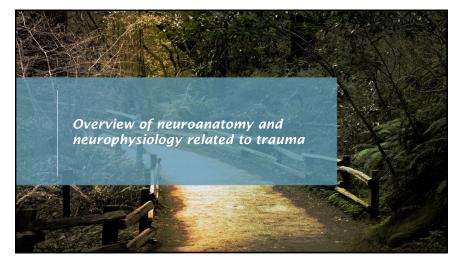
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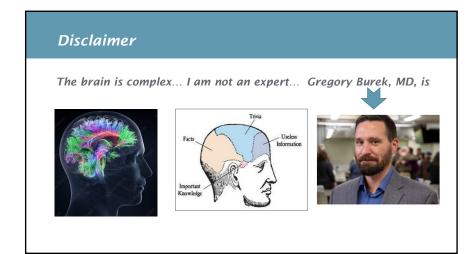
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Alternative explanation

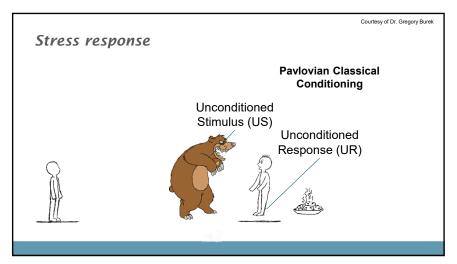
- Minority stress
- Race based trauma
- Trauma

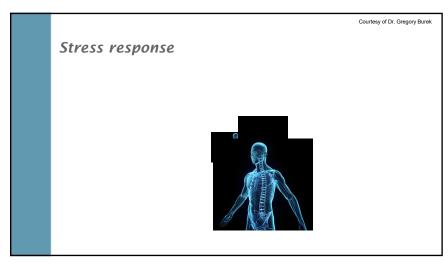


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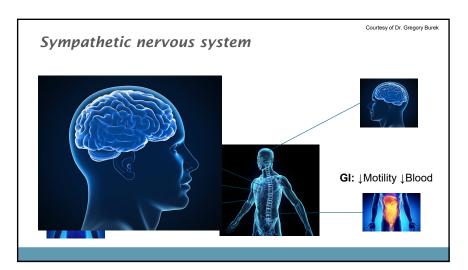


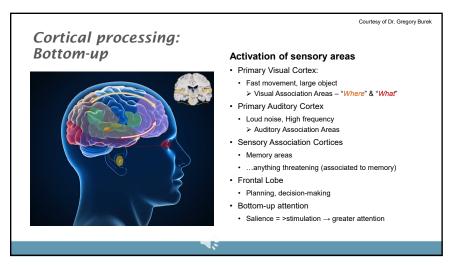
Courtesy of Dr. Gregory Burek Stress response Components: Purpose: • "Fight, Flight or Freeze" response Brain Get the body ready to ACT! Limbic lobe: Amygdala, Hippocampus, Locus Coeruleus, Anterior Cingulate Cortex (ACC) Respond to a threat · Thalamus, Hypothalamus, Pituitary Helps the organism to survive Body Sympathetic Chain Ganglion fight flight freeze Adrenal Glands • \rightarrow Effects every organ system





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Cortical processing: Top-down



Frontal Lobe

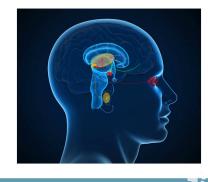
- · Prefrontal Cortex
 - · Primarily inhibitory (GABA)
 - · regulate Attention
 - Parietal & Temporal Associative cortices <u>filtering</u>
 - · Subcortical area eye movement & hearing
 - · regulate Behavior
 - · Premotor & Motor cortices
 - Subcortical Caudate & Cerebelum
 - · regulate Emotion
 - Amygdala, Hypothalamus, Nucleus Accumbens, Brainstem
- · access Memories
- Suppression
- · Voluntary inhibition of memories, impulses, or desires
- · Top-down Processing
 - Relevance = desire → greater attention

Very Slow!! = Getting Eaten

Courtesy of Dr. Gregory Burek

Courtesy of Dr. Gregory Burek

Subcortical processing



- · Hub for sensory & motor
 - · connects brain & body
- · Afferents (inputs)
- ➤ Visual stimuli
- · Lateral Geniculate Nucleus
- > Auditory stimuli
- · Medial Geniculate Nucleus
- > Dorsomedial nucleus
- Amygdala, caudate, frontal cortex

Courtesy of Dr. Gregory Burek

- Efferents (outputs)
 - · Everywhere!
- · Prefrontal cortex
- Amygdala

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Subcortical processing



Amygdala

- · Fear & Anger
- · "smoke alarm"
- · Afferents (inputs)
- > Sensory systems ~ thalamus
- > Prefrontal cortex = inhibition
- > Anterior cingulate cortex = emotional memory
- Efferents (outputs)
- Dorsomedial thalamus = pain, attention, memory
- Hypothalamus → Pituitary → Adrenals
- Hippocampus = memory
- Ventral Tegmental Area (VTA) = ↑ Dopamine
- Locus Coeruleus = ↑ Norepinephrine

Courtesy of Dr. Gregory Burek Subcortical processing • "The Balance" = Reactive vs. Rational · Reciprocal inhibition ↑ Amygdala = ↓ vmPFC → Fight, Flight or Freeze ↓ inhibition = ↓ voluntary action ↑ instinctual/reactive behavior ↑ vmPFC = ↓ Amygdala → Relaxed & Rational ↑ inhibition = ↑ choice of action

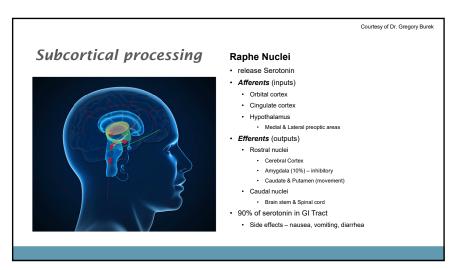
Courtesy of Dr. Gregory Burek Hypothalamus Subcortical processing · Afferents (inputs) Amygdala · Solitary Nucleus (sensory tracts) · Locus Coeruleus Efferents (outputs) · Ventrolateral medulla (rVLM) - \rightarrow sympathetic chain ganglion \rightarrow body response · Orexin (hypocretin) - sleep switch · posterior hypothalamus – stress response · Ventral Tegmental Area (DA) Locus Coeruleus (NE) Raphe Nuclei (5-HT) Tuberomammillary nucleus (Histamine) · Tuberomammillary Nucleus Histamine Cortex – cognition · Hippocampus - memory · Striatum - movement · Nucleus accumbens - reward · Hypothalamus - arousal

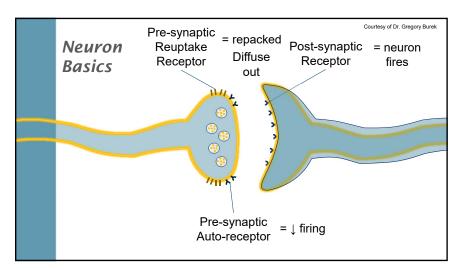
Courtesy of Dr. Gregory Burek Pituitary Subcortical processing · Afferents (Inputs) Hypothalamus sends axons to Posterior Pituitary Oxytocin · Vasopressin · Corticotropin-Releasing Hormone (CRH) → anterior pituitary · Efferents (outputs) · Anterior Pituitary · Adrenocorticotropic Hormone (ACTH) → Adrenal Cortex · Cortisol (glucocorticoids) · "stress hormone" ↑ blood glucose ↓ inflammation • ↓ immune function

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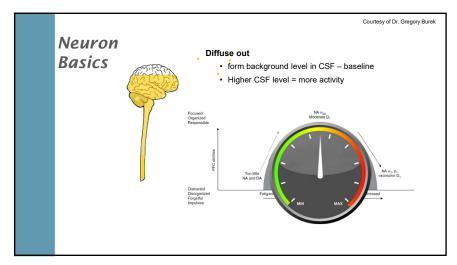
Courtesy of Dr. Gregory Burek **Locus Coeruleus** Subcortical processing · releases Norepinephrine (NE) · Afferents (inputs) · Orbitofrontal cortex (inhibitory) · Medial prefrontal cortex · Autonomics from brainstem · Lateral Hypothalamus Efferents (outputs) Cerebral cortex Amygdala - ↑arousal & vigilance · Hippocampus - memory Cerebellum · Brain stem & Spinal cord · → sympathetic chain → whole body response Thalamus · Hypothalamus → Pituitary → adrenals ↑ Epinephrine & ↑ Cortisol · Tectum - audio & visual reflexes · Ventral tegmental area (VTA)

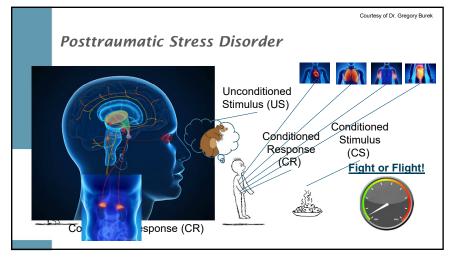
Courtesy of Dr. Gregory Burek Ventral Tegmental Area (VTA) Subcortical processing · releases Dopamine (DA) · Afferents (inputs) Amygdala · Cingulate cortex Hippocampus · Prefrontal Cortex · Efferents (outputs) · Mesocortical pathway · VTA to Prefrontal cortex · ↑attention, concentration, cognition · Mesolimbic pathway · VTA to Nucleus Accumbens · Reward (pleasure, reinforcement) · Motivation & Learning · Aversion-related cognition · Avoidance (negative reinforcement)





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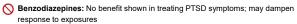






 Paroxetine and sertraline are approved by the Food and Drug Administration for the treatment of PTSD.

- · Venlafaxine and nefazodone have been recommended for PTSD
- $\bullet \quad \text{Mirtazapine, trazodone, and prazosin have been used for insomnia and nightmares} \\$
- · Topiramate has been used in patients with PTSD and alcohol use disorder.



- These agents alleviate symptoms but rarely induce remission, and there is a substantial risk of relapse on discontinuation.
- Most patients with PTSD (e.g., 74% of affected war veterans) receive some form of pharmacologic treatment, including antidepressant agents, anxiolytic or sedativehypnotic agents, and antipsychotic agents (prescribed, respectively, for 89%, 61%, and 34% of those receiving pharmacotherapy).
- Over 8% of Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans received five or more CNS-acting medications in 2011. Multimorbidity of mental disorders and traumatic brain injury was strongly associated with CNS polypharmacy. Suicide-related behavior and drug/alcohol overdose were significantly associated with CNS polypharmacy.

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Gaps in PTSD pharmacotherapy research

Examination of pharmacotherapy for PTSD comorbid with other disorders









 Polypharmacy may result in improvement in PTSD symptoms, but it may also result in more side effects and contribute to noncompliance to treatment

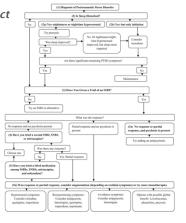
NON-COMPLIANCE

Psychopharmacology Algorithm Project at the Harvard South Shore Program

 The treatment of PTSD remains a challenge for physicians and patients.

Current evidence

- More needs to be learned about the pathophysiology of this chronic, disabling condition and about the comorbidities with which it often presents.
- Improvements in our understanding of genetics, the neurobiological underpinnings of PTSD, and mechanisms related to each symptom cluster promise to add refinements to the current treatment strategy.



Pharmacologic interventions in the aftermath of trauma

- oam,
- Negative for propranolol, escitalopram, temazepam, and gabapentin
- Hydrocortisone administered shortly after exposure to trauma may reduce subsequent PTSD symptoms
- Morphine may reduce the prevalence of PTSD among injured survivors of trauma
- Intranasal oxytocin reduced anxiety, irritability, and intrusive recollections in trauma survivors





- Transcranial magnetic stimulation of the right dorsolateral prefrontal cortex has a positive effect
- Cycloserine, a partial agonist of the glutamatergic N-methyl-d-aspartate (NMDA) receptor, has conflicting results
- Cannabinoids may decrease PTSD-related insomnia, nightmares, and hyperarousal.
- Intravenous ketamine, a glutamate NMDA receptor antagonist, rapidly reduces the severity of PTSD symptoms
- Randomized clinical trials support the efficacy of MDMA in the treatment of PTSD but the database is insufficient for FDA approval of any psychedelic compound for routine clinical use

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Practical considerations

- One group of medications is often not enough for the treatment of all the PTSD symptoms
- Many patients with PTSD receive off-label medications and might be overmedicated (well-intended but misses the mark?)
- Irrespective of the different mechanisms of action of drugs used in the treatment of PTSD, the final goal is always the same:
- · Reduce distress
- Reinforce the psychological defense system
- Restore the functioning of the person





APA Guideline for treatment of PTSD in adults

Strongly recommends:

- · Cognitive behavioral therapy
- · Cognitive processing therapy
- · Cognitive therapy
- · Prolonged exposure therapy

(APA, 2017; Grau et al., 2022)

Suggests:

- · Brief eclectic therapy
- · Eye movement desensitization and reprocessing
- Narrative exposure therapy

Insufficient evidence:

- · Seeking Safety Relaxation

(APA, 2017)

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EBP limitations U.S. Population PTSD Efficacy Studies

Evidence-based psychotherapies: Children

Trauma-focused CBT

- 3 21 years
- · Target population
- · U.S. ethnoracial evidence base: Caucasian, African American, Latino
- · Global: Europe, Australia, Africa
- · Diverse SES and religions
- · Urban, suburban, and rural regions
- Languages: Mandarin, German, Dutch, Polish, Japanese, and Korean

(NCTSN, 2012)

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EBP limitations

- · Overall lack of LGBTQIA+ participants in research
- "Gold standard" treatments developed for Criterion A traumas
- Is de-conditioning overgeneralized fear responses and remediating cognitive distortions appropriate?
- · Existing theories are limited in applicability for chronic victimization and daily identity-based threats

(Livingston et al., 2020)

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■ White ■ Black ■ Latinx ■ Asian ■ Al/AN ■ Hawaiian/PI ■ Multiracia



Recommendations

- Inclusive paperwork (Livingston et al., 2020) and research (APA, 2017; Grau et al., 2022)
- Focus on empowerment, self-control, and connectedness with community (Williams, Haeny, & Holmes, 2021)
- Provide education to patients and families about the effects of exposure to discrimination (Trent et al., 2019)
- Train ALL staff in culturally competent care (Trent et al., 2019)
- Assess patients for stressors and social determinants of health associated with discrimination (Trent et al., 2019)
- Ask about experiences of police violence, racial threats, immigration difficulties, workplace harassment (Williams, Haeny, & Holmes, 2021)
- Ensure true safety when assigning exposures and affirming contexts rather than thought challenging (Livingston et al., 2020)

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Assessments - symptoms related to discrimination

- Race-Related Stressor Scale (RRSS)
- Race-Based Traumatic Stress Symptom Scale (RBTSSS)
- Trauma Symptoms of Discrimination Scale (TSDS)
- UConn Racial/Ethnic Stress & Trauma Survey (UnRESTS)
- · Everyday Discrimination Scale
- · Major Experiences of Discrimination Scale
- · Chronic Work Discrimination and Harassment: Abbreviated
- · Gender Minority Stress and Resilience Measure
- · Perceptions of Local Stigma Questionnaire
- In Development: Oppression-Based Traumatic Stress Inventory (OBTSI) (Holmes, Zalewa, Wetterneck, & Williams, 2023, under review)

Revisiting Jasmine

- Completed TF-CBT at PHP/IOP level of care focused on murder of step-mom
- · Non-adherence to medications and continued use of marijuana
- Publicly started identifying as female and using chosen name/pronouns
- Decreased healthcare utilization (last hospitalization 1 year ago)
- · Decrease self-harm and suicidality
- Increased quality of life as evidenced by school attendance and staying in family home
- Reports satisfaction with living authentic identity

We meet these kids in the present, and we start with what we see. We get stuck on the things they do and say, and we focus on managing their behavior. We get so caught up in the urgency and intensity of the current moment that we forget about the past; we're so concerned with making their behavior stop that we ignore the reasons it exists.

(Menand & Cox. 2022)

Time for questions and answers...

- Please use the Q&A button not the chat – to submit your question
- If we don't get to your question, please feel free to send an email to webinars@rogersbh.org and we will follow-up with you



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Recommended resources

- APA Guidelines on Race and Ethnicity in Psychology: Promoting Responsiveness and Equity https://www.apa.org/about/policy/quidelines-race-ethnicity.pdf
- APA LGBTQ Resources and Publications https://www.apa.org/pi/lgbt/resources
- Dr. Monnica Williams, Equity in Care https://www.monnicawilliams.com/ (publications, lectures, workshops)

About the presenters...



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