

The MENTAL HEALTH LEGAL ADVISORS COMMITTEE presents:

APPLIED SCIENCE FOR LAWYERS: NEUROLOGY AND PSYCHIATRY IN THE COURTROOM

Friday, February 6, 2009
MCLE, Boston

8:00 REGISTRATION AND BREAKFAST

8:30 WELCOME

8:45 **NEUROIMAGING IN PSYCHIATRY AND NEUROLOGY**

This lecture will explore the use of psychiatric and neurological concepts in legal settings, and evaluate successful and unsuccessful attempts to use diagnostic findings to explain human behaviors. Dr. Price, a behavioral neurologist, and Dr. Edersheim, a forensic psychiatrist and attorney, will outline classic instances in which neurobehavioral diagnoses become relevant to legal determinations and illustrate common “errors of translation” when diagnoses and diagnostic tests are used in the legal arena.

Judith G. Edersheim, J.D., M.D., Senior Consultant, Law & Psychiatry Service, Massachusetts General Hospital; Clinical Instructor in Psychiatry, Harvard Medical School.

Bruce H. Price, M.D. Chief, Department of Neurology, McLean Hospital; Associate Professor of Neurology, Harvard Medical School.

10:30 **SUICIDOLOGY: STATE- OF- THE- ART ASSESSMENT**

Dr. Jacobs will present the Suicide Assessment Five-step Evaluation and Triage (SAFE-T) pocket card which provides protocols for conducting a comprehensive suicide assessment, estimating suicide risk, identifying protective factors, developing treatment plans and interventions responsive to the risk level of patients. This model, originally conceived of by Dr. Jacobs, was developed through collaboration between Screening for Mental Health, Inc. (SMH) and the Suicide Prevention Resource Center (SPRC). Its protocols and guidelines were developed based upon the American Psychiatric Association Practice Guidelines for the Assessment and Treatment of Patients with Suicidal Behaviors.

Douglas G. Jacobs, M.D., President and CEO, Screening for Mental Health, Inc.; Associate Clinical Professor of Psychiatry, Harvard Medical School.

11:30 **COGNITIVE IMPAIRMENT AND DECISION- MAKING IN THE ELDERLY**

Dr. Murray will discuss important issues in evaluating dementia and decision-making ability. He will discuss commonly used approaches to assessment and various diagnostic tools as well as analyze what can and cannot be learned from results. Dr. Murray will offer an overview of the importance and challenges of these evaluations in an effort to improve the ability of attorneys to anticipate a variety of issues.

Evan D. Murray, M.D., Behavioral Neurologist, McLean Hospital/Massachusetts General Hospital; Instructor in Neurology, Harvard Medical School.

12:30 LUNCH (ON YOUR OWN)

1:30 **VIOLENCE RISK ASSESSMENT FOR JUVENILES**

This workshop focuses upon a model of risk assessment for juveniles for violence. Dr. DiCataldo will identify static and dynamic risk factors as well as discuss controversies regarding actuarial and clinical approaches to risk assessment. In addition, he will present “best practices” approaches to this area of work. Finally, you will learn about issues in securing risk assessment evaluations through court clinics, CPCS providers or other sources.

Frank DiCataldo, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Psychology, Roger Williams University.

3:30 **SCIENTIFIC AND CLINICAL DATA IN SEXUAL DANGEROUS PERSON EVALUATIONS**

Dr. Saleh will analyze the use and misuse of scientific and clinical data in Sexual Dangerous Person evaluations. He will review data pertaining to the clinical characteristics, risk assessment and risk management of sexually deviant and non-sexually deviant offenders. He will also talk about the applicability of such data in SDP evaluations.

Fabian M. Saleh, M.D., Law & Psychiatry Service, Massachusetts General Hospital; Assistant Professor of Psychiatry, Harvard Medical School; Director & Founder of the Sexual Behaviors Clinics, CHL.