



# 32nd Annual Convention

## REMEMBERING OUR SHARED HUMANITY



Keynote Speaker:  
**Barbara O.  
Rothbaum, Ph.D.**

Treating Trauma Using  
Virtual Reality

**October 17, 2020**  
Held Virtually via Zoom

Morning Sessions  
6.0 LIVE CEs Available  
Sessions Recorded for Later On-Demand Viewing  
Poster Session  
Awards Presentation  
Virtual Happy Hour



**HAPPY 75TH ANNIVERSARY**

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Kenneth Skale, Psy.D.

Dear Esteemed Colleagues,

Welcome to the Los Angeles County Psychological Association's 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Convention, our first virtual Convention! We are delighted you are joining us today to connect with your professional community and enjoy a day of learning and inspiration. Given the particularly difficult challenges our society currently faces, we hope that today's Convention helps everyone to join in reflecting on this year's theme: "Remembering Our Shared Humanity."

This year's virtual format means we will be recording sessions and making them available online for later on-demand viewing.



Ryan G. Witherspoon, Ph.D.

In order to adapt to the online format we invited our poster presenters to create slide presentations instead of traditional large-format posters. We invite you to view these presentations here: <https://lacpa.memberclicks.net/2020-convention-poster-session>

In lieu of our usual luncheon programming, we have recorded this year's award presentations. These include the presentations honoring LACPA award recipients Lynne Steinman, Ph.D., James Incorvaia, Ph.D., and Bennie Harris, B.A. In addition, the LACPA Foundation award presentations for this year's poster session winners, Foundation Scholarship, and 2020 Non-Profit award can also be viewed. We encourage you to help us congratulate this year's awardees by viewing the presentations here: <https://www.lacpa.org/annual-convention>

Our afternoon session will feature this year's distinguished keynote speaker, Dr. Barbara O. Rothbaum, who will present *Treatment of PTSD: From Assessment to Virtual Reality*. Dr. Rothbaum is the Executive Director of the Emory Healthcare Veterans Program, and a professor and Associate Vice Chair of Clinical Research at Emory School of Medicine.

Following the conclusion of our keynote presentation all attendees are cordially invited to our Virtual Happy Hour event to mingle, network, and discuss the day's events.

Each year, a dedicated team of volunteers work hard to make Convention enjoyable for all, and this year the team rose to the challenge of adapting Convention to a virtual format. We extend our sincere thanks to all of today's presenters. We are additionally grateful for the hard work of the LACPA Convention Committee, the LACPA Foundation, the LACPA Board of Directors, and our volunteers. Heartfelt thanks also go out to LACPA staff Carol Torcello and Adriene Ghiasian, B.A. for their dedicated efforts. Finally, we want to express our gratitude to our sponsors and advertisers for their generous support of this event.

We wish you a fun, informative, and meaningful day. Thank you for joining us!



Kenneth Skale, Psy.D.  
2020 President



Ryan G. Witherspoon, Ph.D.  
2020 Convention Chair



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Melissa J. Johnson, PhD (PSY 13102)

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2020 LACPA CONVENTION

REMEMBERING OUR SHARED HUMANITY





## FEATURED SPEAKER

***Barbara O. Rothbaum, Ph.D.***, is Executive Director of the Emory Healthcare Veterans Program and a professor and Associate Vice Chair of Clinical Research at Emory School of Medicine. She is also the Director of the Trauma and Anxiety Recovery Program and holds the Paul A. Janssen Chair in Neuropsychopharmacology.



Dr. Rothbaum specializes in research on the treatment of anxiety disorders, particularly PTSD. She has developed, tested, and disseminated some of the most innovative and effective PTSD treatments available, including pioneering virtual reality exposure therapy in the treatment of combat veterans. Dr. Rothbaum has authored over 350 scientific papers and chapters, has published 11 books on the treatment of PTSD and edited four others on anxiety.

## CONVENTION EVENTS

**Convention Events: Sessions I, II, and III;  
Access to Posters; Awards Lunch Break;  
Post Convention Happy Hour**

Date and presenters are subject to change.  
All sessions will be recorded for future on-demand viewing.

## LACPA's 2020 Convention Committee

Ryan G. Witherspoon, Ph.D. - Chair

Christina Armstrong, Ph.D.	David Laramie, Ph.D.
Adriene Ghiasian, B.A.	Karin Meiselman, Ph.D.
James Kalivas, Psy.D.	Richard Sherman, Ph.D.
Rachel Kavanaugh, Psy.D.	Carol Torcello

The Los Angeles County Psychological Association (LACPA) is approved by the American Psychological Association to sponsor continuing education for psychologists. LACPA maintains responsibility for this program and its content.

These sessions may be taken to satisfy the California Board of Behavioral Sciences (BBS) continuing education requirements.

LACPA's 32nd Annual Convention will operate under the guidelines of an APA-Approved sponsor of continuing education. All licensees are responsible for maintaining records of completed continuing education courses. LACPA supplies a Document of Attendance via email within two weeks of the Convention, that certifies the licensee was present for the entire program and earned the continuing education credits by, signing-in and out, with their name and license number, of each presentation via the Zoom Chat to Everyone. If you do not see your name in the Chat box, we cannot see your name either.

It is important to note that APA continuing education rules require that LACPA only give credit to those who attend the entire workshop. An evaluation of each workshop that you will receive on the following Monday, must be completed. Those who arrive more than 15 minutes after the scheduled start time, leave before the workshop is completed, or do not complete the evaluation, will not receive CE credit. Partial credit may not be given.

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*The Los Angeles County Psychological Association  
is grateful to the LACPA Foundation for its  
financial contribution of the Poster Awards.*

*Cover by David Ilan of Galileo Graphics*

## 2020/2021 LACPA's CE Program Series

To register and see complete program and presenter information click on the title.

The following programs will be held virtually via Zoom.

### [Latest Advances in Competency-Based Clinical Supervision](#)

**6.0 LIVE CE Credits** - Presented by Edward Shafranske, Ph.D., ABPP & Carol Falender, Ph.D.  
Saturday, November 7, 2020 & Sunday, November 8, 2020 - 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

This program will Not be recorded.

### [Infidelity as Attachment Injury: Clinical Implications for the Betrayed and the Betrayer](#)

**4.0 LIVE CE Credits** - Presented by Wendy Cherry, Psy.D.

Saturday, March 13, 2021 - 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

This program will be recorded for future on-demand viewing via LACPA's LMS System.

### [Autism Evaluations: Using the MIGDAS-2 Diagnostic Process in Clinical Practice](#)

**4.0 LIVE CE Credits** - Presented by Marilyn Monteiro, Ph.D.

Saturday, April 10, 2021 - 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

This program will Not be recorded.



## 2021 LACPA's Lunch & Learn CE Programs

**Free 1.5 LIVE CE Credits for LACPA Members**

**Program Time:** Noon/12:00 – 1:30 p.m.

**Via Zoom - These Programs will be recorded.**

**A quick and easy way to earn CE credits and visit with your colleagues.**

**Selected titles are:**

**Tuesday, January 19** - *Hoarding: An Excavation Beneath the Piles*

Regina Lark, Ph.D.

**Monday, February 8** - *DIR/FloorTime: Best Practice Approach In the Treatment of Autism Spectrum Disorder in Children/Adolescents*

Esther Hess, Ph.D.

**Friday, March 5** - *Diagnosis & Treatment of Gender Dysphoria: Clinical Implications*

Natalia Zhikhareva, Ph.D.

**Thursday, April 22** - *Dangerous or OCD?: Why It Matters*

Michelle Witkin, Ph.D.

**Friday, May 7** - *Clinician's Role in Supporting Students with Disabilities*

Norma Kehdi, Psy.D and Janice Schafrik, Ph.D.

**Monday, June 14** - *Introduction to a Trauma-Based Listening Perspective*

Carl Shubs, Ph.D.

**Wednesday, July 14** - *Supporting Clients Through Addiction Within Their Family*

Jacqueline Nolan, Psy.D. & Sirisat Khalsa, MD

Click [here](#) for complete Lunch & Learn information, bios, and on-line registration.

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These courses may be taken to satisfy the California Board of Behavioral Sciences (BBS) continuing education requirements.

Programs are subject to change.

# LACPA's On-Demand CE Programs

The following recorded LACPA CE Series Programs are offered On-Demand through Beaconlive and need to be complete in one sitting. In case of any technical difficulties please reach out to the Beaconlive support team by calling 877-297-2901.

***Click on the titles below for on-demand program information and registration.***

**[Cognitive Behavioral and Mindfulness Approaches in the Treatment of Chronic Insomnia](#)**

Presenter: Jeffrey Young, Ph.D., CBSM, DBSM 4.0 Online CEs

**[The Psychology of Narcissism: Psychoanalytic Perspectives of Freud, Kohut, and Kernberg](#)**

Presenter: Peter Wolson, Ph.D. 6.0 Online CEs

**[Bi+ Affirmative Psychotherapy: Unique Psychosocial Issues for Bisexual, Pansexual, and Sexually Fluid Women](#)**

Presenter: Mimi Hoang, Ph.D. 4.0 Online CEs

**[Record Keeping & Documentation: Best Practices to Keep You Safe, in Compliance, and With Peace of Mind](#)**

Presenter: Maelisa Hall, Psy.D. 4.0 Online CEs

*This workshop may be counted toward the ethics requirement mandated every two years for license renewal.*

**[An Evidence-Based Approach to Cannabis: Cannabis Science in the 21st Century](#)**

Presenter: Michael Backes 4.0 Online CEs

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**The following recorded programs are offered On-Demand through LACPA's online Learning Management System (LMS)**

*Click on the titles below for on-demand program information and registration.*

**LACPA Special Presentation**

**[Trauma & Resiliency: A Native Healing Perspective](#)**

1.0 CE Credit – Presented by Alexis Hamill, Ph.D.

**LACPA's 2020 July Diversity Committee Brunch CE Program**  
**[Clinical Considerations in Working with Children of Immigrants](#)**

2.0 CE Credits – Presented by Sahaj Kohli

**LACPA's 2020 Brown Bag Lunches:**  
**[Emergence of Cumulative Trauma States in Family Systems](#)**

1.5 CE Credits – Presented by Katrina Wood, Ph.D.

**[Psychiatric Medications: Pearls of Wisdom for Therapists](#)**

1.5 CE Credits – Presented by Josephine McNary, M.D.

**Special 2020 Presidential Pandemic Series:**

**Part 1 - [A Tsunami of Grief: Coping with Loss During a Pandemic](#)**

2.5 CE Credits – Presented by Gretchen Kubacky, Psy.D.

**Part 2 - [COVID-19 Physical Outcomes: Healthy at Home?](#)**

2.0 CE Credits – Presented by Mekel S. Harris, Ph.D., NCSP

**Part 3 - [Building a Healthy Relationship with Money: Insights from Psychology and Accounting](#)**

2.0 CE Credits – Presented by Gretchen Kubacky, Psy.D. & Robert Wm. Wheeler, CPA

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These courses may be taken to satisfy the California Board of Behavioral Sciences (BBS) continuing education requirements.



# Convention Schedule

Saturday, October 17, 2020

Virtually via Zoom

Times and events are subject to change

## Welcome - 8:00 a.m.

Click [Here](#) for Welcome from LACPA's 2020 Convention Chair Ryan G. Witherspoon, Ph.D. He will give a short welcome to our attendees.

## Brain-Based Multidisciplinary Care

*Course Level: Intermediate*

This presentation highlights the science of neuropsychology with a focus on using brain-based data to drive multidisciplinary care. Neuropsychology offers a multi-dimensional, personalized, and precise characterization of functioning and abilities. Thus, this science allows for individually-tailored multidisciplinary treatment plans in the age of quantified health.



*Lev Gottlieb, Ph.D., is a Neuropsychologist and UCLA Assistant Clinical Professor. He assesses children, adolescents and young adults, and coordinates their care. Dr. Gottlieb also offers Cognitive Style (non-clinical) testing to youth and adults informing decisions on school, work, teams, and wellness. Finally, he co-founded and manages a multidisciplinary clinic and neuroscience technology company with Taylor Kuhn, Ph.D.*



*Taylor Kuhn, Ph.D., is a Neuropsychologist and UCLA Assistant Professional Neuroscientist. He assesses adults across the lifespan and manages their care. He also conducts a broad array of clinical research primarily involving neuroimaging and neuromodulation techniques. Finally, he co-founded and manages a multidisciplinary clinic and neuroscience technology company with Lev Gottlieb, Ph.D.*

## Session I 2.0 CE Credits all courses 8:30 a.m. -10:30 a.m.

### Addressing Sexuality Concerns of College-Age Men

*Course Level: Advanced*

In the era of #MeToo, women are finding platforms to reclaim their sexual rights and collective power. However, what is happening for men, specifically college-aged men, as they navigate seas of confusion and defensiveness? This workshop will examine an integration of education and therapy to help male emerging adults and college-age men explore and celebrate their sexualities in responsible ways.



*Daniel J. Alonzo, Psy.D., is a California Licensed Psychologist and a California Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist. In addition, he is an AAS-ECT Certified Sex Therapist and Certified Supervisor. In addition to his private practice, he works as a Staff Psychologist in University Counseling Services at California State University, Northridge, specializing in Men's Issues and Concerns on campus.*

**To receive continuing education credits, you must sign-in and out, with your name and license number, at each presentation via the Zoom Chat to Everyone. If you do not see your name in the Chat box, we cannot see your name either.**



## What did you Understand me to Say?: The Importance of Recognizing Hearing Loss in Older Adults

*Course Level: Intermediate*

Hearing loss is an epidemic affecting 30-50% of individuals over the age of 65. Undiagnosed hearing loss can negatively impact an individual's social, intellectual and emotional functioning. The need to clinically assess the existence and role of hearing loss in understanding their symptoms is a critical one.



**Alison Freeman, Ph.D.**, is a clinical psychologist in private practice and works half time at California State University, Northridge Counseling Services. Having a severe hearing loss herself, she completed her post doctorate at UCSF Center on

Deafness and has 35 years of experience in providing therapy, consultation, and assessment for individuals with hearing loss across the lifespan.

## When Suicide Comes Out of the Blue

*Course Level: Advanced*

This presentation is designed to identify how the development of hidden cumulative trauma states, manifesting pre-reflectively within family systems, often remains misdiagnosed and untreated. The unintended consequences of such may lead to the potential emergence of suicidal ideation or completion of the act of suicide.



**Katrina Wood, Ph.D.**, is a clinical psychologist in California and owner of the Wilshire Valley Therapy Centers in Los Angeles. [www.wilshirecenter.net](http://www.wilshirecenter.net). She writes a therapy blog <http://drkatrinawood.com> and specializes in the

treatment of adults who have experienced trauma in childhood. She continues post doctoral training at the Institute of Contemporary Psychoanalysis and continues to be mentored by Dr. Robert D Stolorow.

This workshop may be counted toward the suicide requirement.

## Imperfect, Beautiful, Loving Relationships that Last

*Course Level: Advanced*

This interactive workshop is an opportunity to witness how love grows within ordinary and imperfect lives of real couples. The presenter will show clips from a documentary that she and her colleagues filmed of interviews with more than forty couples in satisfactory long-term love relationships. Themes that emerged from the interviews will be discussed.



**Nancy Gardner, Ph.D.**, is certified by the International Center for Excellence in Emotionally Focused Therapy (ICEEFT) as an EFT Trainer and Supervisor, and is a Co-founder of the Los Angeles Center for EFT. Dr. Gardner taught couples therapy for more than a decade at Alliant International University, Los Angeles. She is a past president of LACPA, and has a private practice in Westlake Village where she sees individual adults and couples.

## Bi+ Intimacy: Understanding the Sex and Love Lives of Bisexual, Pansexual, and Non-Monosexual Adults and Adolescents

*Course Level: Advanced*

More and more people are coming out as bisexual, pansexual, sexually fluid, or queer (or "bi+"), and clinicians may have basic knowledge about terms and definitions. This presentation delves further into bi+ people's challenges maintaining healthy sexual and romantic relationships with partners of various genders/sexual orientations, whether monogamous or polyamorous.



**Mimi Hoang, Ph.D.**, is a nationally-recognized psychologist, author, and activist specializing in LGBTQ+ intersectionality. Her leadership since the 1990s includes co-founding three organizations for bisexual, pansexual, and fluid (AKA "bi+") individuals, multiple publications, and being named "One of the Most Significant Women in the Bisexual Movement." Currently, Dr. Mimi works as a Staff Psychologist at Loyola Marymount University, Professor at Antioch University, and is the creator of the "Bi on Life" self-empowerment series. [www.drmmimihong.com](http://www.drmmimihong.com).

## Session II

### 2.0 CE Credits all courses

11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

### Treating Neurodevelopmental Disorder-Related Trauma

*Course Level: Intermediate*

For children with neurodevelopmental disorders, school can be traumatizing. The secondary effects of trauma experienced by these children are frequently more detrimental to learning and development than the primary neurodevelopmental disorder itself. This presentation explains the connection between neurodevelopmental disorders and trauma and provides strategies to address school-related trauma.



**Daniel Franklin, Ph.D.**, holds a Master's degree from the Harvard Graduate School of Education and a Ph.D. from UCLA in Education. He has over 30 years of experience in education and is the Clinical Director of Franklin Educational Services. Daniel is the author of *Helping Your Child with Language-Based Learning Disabilities (2018)* and a co-editor of *The Los Angeles Psychologist*.



**Dominique Marinello, M.S.**, earned her Master's degree in Psychology and is currently completing her Doctorate in Education at Johns Hopkins University. Dominique is a Child and Adolescent Trauma Certified Professional, has conducted neuropsychology and social psychology research at USC and Harvard University, and currently serves as Director for the Orange County region of Franklin Educational Services, Inc.

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[Trauma & Beyond Psychological Center](#)

### Reconceptualizing the First Visit's Purpose and Power

*Course Level: Advanced*

Studies since the 1960s continue to confirm that the modal number of care visits new clients pursue is one. Our intake "practices" turn off too many of those seeking care. This workshop teaches how to alter the structure of the encounter to use it to build a robust working alliance.



**Arthur Kovacs, Ph.D.**, has been in independent practice for more than 60 years. He is Founding Campus Dean Emeritus and Distinguished Professor, CSPP, Los Angeles. He has taught or supervised over 1500 members of the profession during the years of his career, now scattered everywhere in this country and in many nations abroad. He has served APA in a variety of leadership positions.

### Erotic Countertransference: The Radical Search for Truth

*Course Level: Advanced*

This presentation will focus on how to manage and use erotic energy and what to do in the absence of erotic energy in the therapeutic setting. Through case studies we will parse out the various parts of patients' selves that are revealed in therapy and speculate on the disavowed selves they keep sequestered.



**Alexandra Katehakis, Ph.D., L.M.F.T.**, is Clinical Director of the Center for Healthy Sex in Los Angeles and faculty for the International Institute of Trauma and Addiction Professionals. Dr. Katehakis's most recent books include *Sexual Reflections: A Workbook for Designing and Celebrating Your Sexual Health Plan (2018)* and *Sex Addiction as Affect Dysregulation: A Neurobiologically Informed Holistic Treatment (2016)*.

LACPA members can get 8 CEs for Convention and more free CEs throughout the year. Join now and get all the benefits of Membership!



## Psychologists and Social Security Disability Programs

*Course Level: Advanced*

Some patients treated by psychologists and other clinicians may become disabled and become eligible for Social Security Disability benefits. The Social Security Disability Administration typically requests records and professional opinions from the various treating providers. This presentation will discuss best practices for clinicians whose patients apply for Social Security benefits.



**Randy Noblitt, Ph.D.**, is a clinical psychologist licensed in Texas and professor of clinical psychology at the California School of Professional Psychology at Alliant International University. Dr. Noblitt authored *Navigating Social Security*

*Disability Programs: A Handbook for Clinicians and Advocates* with spouse Pamela Perskin Noblitt, which was published in February 2020. He also helped develop *Disability Psychology*, a recently offered CSPP elective.



**Pamela Perskin Noblitt, EDPNA**, is a non-attorney representing claimants for Social Security Disability Insurance and Supplemental Security Income benefits. She has represented more than 1,200 applicants and co-authored several

journal articles, a chapter, and a book, *Navigating Social Security Disability Programs: A Handbook for Clinicians and Advocates* (2020) with her husband of 50 years, Randy Noblitt, Ph.D.

## Creating Closeness at a Distance with Teletherapy

*Course Level: Advanced*

COVID-19 has pressured therapists to apply their skills online, yet many believe that a virtual medium limits sensory data and compromises trauma work. This presentation offers another clinical perspective and explores the possibilities to attune to subtle emotional and physiological shifts and build capacity for secure attachment without physical proximity.



**Susan Warren Warshaw, LCSW, LMFT**, is the founder of the Dynamic Emotion Focused Therapy Institute (DEFT). She is an international presenter, a Certified IEDTA Teacher/Supervisor, a faculty member of the ISTDP

Institute, and has published several articles in professional journals. She treats individuals and couples in her Woodland Hills private practice, offers clinical supervision, online therapy, coaching, and consultation.

**Sessions will be recorded for on-demand viewing to be available in November. On-demand viewing availability subject to potential technical recording issues.**

**Congratulations to**  
**LYNNE STEINMAN, PH.D.**  
**on her Distinguished Service to LACPA Award by a LACPA Member**  
**and to**  
**BENNIE HARRIS, B.A.**  
**on his Distinguished Service to LACPA Award by a Graduate Student**

From the LACPA Board of Directors:

Leticia Amick, Ph.D.  
Noreen Egurbide, M.A.  
Michael Fresé, Ph.D.  
Stephanie Haibloom, Psy.D.

Gretchen Kubacky, Psy.D.  
David Laramie, Ph.D.  
Kenneth Skale, Psy.D.  
Terry Marks-Tarlow, Ph.D.

# Awards Presentation

## 1:15 – 2:15 p.m.

Thank you from LACPA's  
2020 President Kenneth Skale, Psy.D.

LACPA  
Poster Awards

Foundation  
Scholarship & Non-profit Awards



### **Distinguished Service to the Community, Diversity, or Social Justice**

**James Incorvaia, Ph.D.**

Dr. Incorvaia was born and raised in Cleveland, where he received his higher education credentials including Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology, Master's degree in "English and Education"; Master's degree in "Social Sciences in School Psychology"; and a Master's degree in "Science in Psychology".

Throughout his professional career, there is a common thread of working with and for young people; as an innovating teacher and educator who often thinks outside the box; as a social researcher; as a clinical psychologist; and above all – as a mentor to hundreds of mental health professionals who continue to carry his legacy.

Dr. Incorvaia began his professional Journey in Los Angeles when he matriculated into the Reiss-Davis Post-doctoral Fellowship Program in 1972. There followed a series of leadership roles until 1990, when he became the fourth Director of the Reiss-Davis Child Study Center, a position he continues to hold at Vista Del Mar Child and Family Services.

Throughout his 48 years with Reiss-Davis, Dr. Incorvaia has continuously led and launched innovative programs and projects that have provided a wealth of training opportunities to Fellows as well as services to thousands of children and adolescent clients and their families.

Following the model begun by Dr. Reiss, Dr. Incorvaia maintains the four cornerstones of the Reiss-Davis Child Study Center:

1. Diagnostic and therapeutic services to children, adolescents and their parents.
2. Training professionals in an intensive two-year fellowship focused on working with children and adolescents diagnostically and therapeutically from a psychodynamically oriented, neurobiologically informed, and trauma focused perspective.
3. Continuing education programs for mental health professionals to learn more about recent and cutting-edge methods and techniques to help their own child and adolescent clients.
4. Research in the field of infant, child and adolescent mental health to reach even more young people and their parents.

His accomplishments and innovations in each of these four areas are too many to list in the limited space of this platform. To mention just a few:

- Authoring a series of books from the Reiss-Davis Child Study Center.
- Leading the development of the Reiss-Davis Graduate School which is now fully accredited by WASC - Senior College and University Commission – WSCUC.
- Developing monthly continuing education program: "Saturdays at the Center."
- Developing the Annual Edna Reiss-Sophie Greenberg Chair and Award Conference honoring national and international figures who have made a significant contribution to the field of child and adolescent mental health.
- In the research arena, Dr. Incorvaia collaborated throughout the years with world-renown experts such as Bessel van der Kolk and Stephen Porges, to name a few.

*See Incorvaia, continued on page 14*





**Distinguished Service  
to LACPA by a  
LACPA Member**

*Lynne Steinman, Ph.D.*

Dr. Lynne Steinman has contributed significantly, in both time and effort, to the betterment of LACPA during the past 12 years. Throughout these years, she found a balance between work, involvement in LACPA and self-care. Her Presidential theme in 2018, was “Balance and Self Care” which led to creating a position on the Board for someone to lead events for the members related to this important topic.

Her volunteerism for LACPA began in 2008 when she created the Santa Clarita Book Club meeting, a position that she continues to hold. In the next few years, she led the LACPA Book Club and founded the Santa Clarita Networking Meeting. These two groups and other activities, such as organizing CE programs and participation in local community programs, solidified a connection for psychologists in the Santa Clarita with LACPA. It is also a model of how to effectively increase LACPA’s involvement in a greater number of geographical areas to continue its outreach efforts.

In 2012 Dr. Steinman joined the LACPA Board as the Alternative Representative to the to the Board of the California Psychological Association. Albeit a relatively small position, it allowed her to establish an important strong working relationship with California Psychological Association (CPA) and its CEO, Dr. Jo Linder-Crow. This important connection was beneficial during her Presidential year and her current LACPA Board position as CPA Representative. Impressively, during her Presidential year Dr. Steinman was able to raise a record amount of funds, approximately \$4,500, for the CPA-PAC, which directly impacts their advocacy efforts for all psychologists.

Within a few years, Dr. Steinman’s Board positions became significantly greater: Membership Committee Co-Chair in 2013 and Chair for 2014; Secretary-Elect, and thus member of the Executive and Finance Committees (2014); Secretary (2015-16); President-Elect (2017); President, and thus an ad hoc member of nearly all committees (2018);

*See Steinman, continued on page 14*



**Distinguished Service  
to LACPA by a  
Graduate Student**

*Bennie Harris, B.A.*

As a United States Marine, he was known as Sergeant Harris, who proudly served his country for seven years, and it is with the same pride and honor that he serves his mental health patients. Bennie Harris is a current doctoral student at Pacifica Graduate Institute completing their clinical psychology program. He has a passion for relational, psychodynamic therapeutic practices and has gained a wealth of knowledge and experience since entering the field of mental health in 2015. Bennie continues to show allegiance to those who have served in the armed forces by seeking out training opportunities that allow him to work with veteran populations. While at the United States Veterans Initiative, he worked as a Veterans Service Coordinator who helped to maintain a therapeutic community for veterans battling housing insecurity. However, it was his work at the residential treatment facility, Constellation Behavioral Health, that provided inspiration for his long-term goals. Though he was not working as a therapist while at Constellation, as a member of the after-hours residential staff, Bennie forged trusting and meaningful relationships with the residents—a relationship that was substantial and significant for many of them. The more he learned about their challenges, wants, needs, and desires, the more moved he was, and the more confident he became in his ability to open his own residential treatment center one day. As a therapist at The Relational Center, Bennie provides psychotherapy to individuals, couples, and groups. His work is centered around helping his clients strengthen their interpersonal connections while cultivating resilient relationships, and he more than enjoys his work.

Bennie Harris is not only a student and clinician, but he is also an active contributing member of the mental health community. Bennie is the current Chair-Elect of the California Psychological Association of Graduate Students, and has been an active board member for over a year. He is also a board member of the Los Angeles County Psychological Association and the current Chair of the Student

*See Harris, continued on page 14*

*Incorvaia, continued from page 12*

Reiss-Davis's clear vision as it has developed throughout the years, has been set through Dr. Incorvaia's guiding principles and vision for working with children and adolescents:

- We believe that the change element in child and adolescent psychotherapy is the relationship.
- We honor that therapeutic relationship, and value it as the curative factor.
- We value children and adolescents' unconscious mind and inner life, as much as their conscious experience.
- We believe that any comprehensive change in children and adolescents' inner world necessitates parent work.
- We appreciate and respect the importance of each young person's unique neurobiology.

In each of the above-mentioned accomplishments, Dr. Incorvaia has worked relentlessly to promote children's mental health services in the community and to inform the professional community of recent, cutting edge theoretical developments in the field.

We are grateful to the LACPA community for honoring Dr. Incorvaia with the 2020 LACPA Distinguished Service to the Community, Diversity or Social Justice Award.

*Bio submitted by  
Simcha Saiek, Psy.D.  
Lourdes Brown*

*Steinman, continued from page 13*

Past-President and Chair of the Nominations and Elections Committee (2019). Just a few months before starting her Presidential year, Patricia Fricker, LACPA's beloved Executive Director of 26 years, passed away. This factor created a tremendous loss for all members of LACPA and Dr. Steinman, along with the Executive Committee, had administrative responsibilities that included the transition of several office personnel. Dr. Steinman led this task with sensitivity and resilience. A leader is more than a list of accomplishments. A leader has the capacity to deal with intricate and complicated political and interpersonal situations with intelligence, humor, warmth, maturity, and understanding. Dr. Steinman has all of these qualities, representing our organization in an outstanding way.

*Bio submitted by  
Berta Davis, Ph.D.  
Amy Rosett, Ph.D.*

*Harris, continued from page 13*

Leadership Committee. As a board member of both his local and state associations, Bennie's aim is to not only give graduate students a more prominent voice within the professional organizations, but to also lead the charge in ensuring that our professional organizations continue to provide worthwhile content and offerings for its student members. Bennie is a husband, a father, and a veteran—and each of those roles heavily influence his work as a clinician. He not only believes in giving back to the soldiers who have given so much to our country, but he is also motivated to remove barriers and breaking down walls that have previously blocked many communities from receiving appropriate mental health services. That is Bennie Harris at his core—an honorable gentleman who wants to honor others.

*Bio submitted by  
Jaz Robbins, M.A., AMFT*



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## Session III 2.0 CE Credits 2:30 – 4:30 p.m.

### Treatment of PTSD: From Assessment to Virtual Reality

*Course Level: Intermediate*

The signs, symptoms, associated features, and comorbidities of posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) will be discussed, with an emphasis on mood disorders. The pharmacotherapy and psychotherapy literatures for PTSD will be succinctly reviewed and discussed, focusing on cognitive behavioral treatments (CBT), and the various CBT techniques will be briefly described, including virtual reality exposure therapy. Pharmacotherapy and combination pharmacotherapy and psychotherapy treatments for PTSD will be discussed and their impact on mood. Innovations in the treatment of PTSD, including medium of delivery, novel combination treatment, and early interventions will be presented. An intensive outpatient treatment model and pilot data will be presented.



**Barbara O. Rothbaum, Ph.D.**, is Executive Director of the Emory Healthcare Veterans Program and a professor and Associate Vice Chair of Clinical Research at Emory School of Medicine. She is also the Director of the Trauma and Anxiety Recovery Program and holds the Paul A. Janssen Chair in Neuropsychopharmacology. Dr. Rothbaum specializes in research on the treatment of anxiety disorders, particularly PTSD. She has developed, tested, and disseminated some of the most innovative and effective PTSD treatments available, including pioneering virtual reality exposure therapy in the treatment of combat veterans. Dr. Rothbaum has authored over 350 scientific papers and chapters, has published 11 books on the treatment of PTSD and edited four others on anxiety.

## Virtual Happy Hour 4:45 p.m. – 5:45 p.m.



**Evelyn Pechter, PsyD**  
Clinical Psychologist • PSY21132  
28720 Roadside Drive Suite 176  
Agoura Hills CA 91301  
11850 Wilshire Blvd Suite 200A  
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Since the LACPA Convention is virtual this year, we decided to change up how we handle poster presentations. Instead of creating a traditional poster, we asked accepted presenters to create a brief Powerpoint presentation instead. We hope this will allow our poster session presenters to more clearly communicate their work by using a format that is easier to view on a computer than a large format poster would be. Congratulations to our accepted poster session presenters below!

Thanks,  
 Ryan G. Witherspoon, Ph.D., Convention Chair

**First Author Name:** Monica Babaian, M.A.  
**Name of University:** California School of Professional Psychology at Alliant International University

**University Advisor for this research:**  
 George Gharibian, Ph.D.

*Pediatric Neurological Disorders; The Impact of Discrepant Data on the Neuropsychologist*

[Click Here to View Presentation](#)

**First Author Name:** Alique Bedikian, Psy.D.  
**Early Career Psychologist** - Date of Doctorate: 2019  
 From The Chicago School of Professional Psychology  
*Social, Political, and Psychodynamic Predictors of COVID Distress*

[Click Here to View Presentation](#)

**First Author Name:**

Stacie Coveleski, Psy.D. Clinical Psychology

**Early Career Psychologist** – Date of Doctorate:  
 2/28/2020

From The Chicago School of Professional Psychology-Irvine  
*An Examination of How Clinicians Diagnose and Treat Premenstrual Dysphoric Disorder (PMDD)*

[Click Here to View Presentation](#)

**First Author Name:** Bryon Cunningham, Ph.D. (philosophy)  
**Name of University:** California School of Professional Psychology at Alliant International University

**University Advisor for this research:** Randy Noblitt, Ph.D.  
*Evolutionary Psychopathology and Recurrent Pathways to Depression*

[Click Here to View Presentation](#)

**First Author Name:** Sonya Fulgham, M.A.

**Name of University:** The Chicago School of Professional Psychology

**University Advisor for this research:** Clive Kennedy, Ph.D. (Psy.D. - Applied Clinical Psychology)  
*The Long-Term Effects of Cross-Generational and Historical Violence on African American Women and the Contingent Decline in their Interpersonal Relationships with Men*

[Click Here to View Presentation](#)

**First Author Name:** Nancy Graies, M.A.

**Name of University:** California School of Professional Psychology at Alliant International University

**University Advisor for this research:**  
 George Gharibian, Ph.D.,  
 Assistant Professor, Clinical Psy.D. Program

*Increasing Mental Health Awareness in The Coptic Community*

[Click Here to View Presentation](#)

**First Author Name:** Candice Hannani, M.A.

**Name of University:** California School of Professional Psychology at Alliant International University, Los Angeles

**University Advisor for this research:**

Jessie Lowell, Psy.D.

*Role of Religious Coping on Disordered Eating in Young Women*

[Click Here to View Presentation](#)

**First Author Name:** Diamond Huffman, M.A.

**Name of University:**

The Chicago School of Professional Psychology

**University Advisor for this research:** Bina Parekh, Ph.D.

*African Americans Underutilization of Mental Health Services: Religion as a Barrier*

[Click Here to View Presentation](#)

**First Author Name:** Ashley Nguyen, M.A.

**Name of University:** Pepperdine University

**University Advisor for this research:**

Judy Ho, Ph.D., ABPP, ABPdN, CFMHE

*Efficacy of Parent Management Trainings for Asian Youth*

[Click Here to View Presentation](#)

**First Author Name:** Erica Rozmid, Ph.D.

**Early Career Psychologist** Date of Doctorate: 8/31/2019

From: Palo Alto University

*Substance Use Urges and the Use of Specific DBT Skills as Reported in Diary Cards*

[Click Here to View Presentation](#)

**First Author Name:** Zhanna Shahparonyan, M.A.

**Name of University:** California School of Professional Psychology at Alliant International University

**University Advisor for this research:**

George Gharibian, Ph.D.

*The Importance of Dementia Care in Clinical Practice*

[Click Here to View Presentation](#)

**First Author Name:** Elizabeth M. Stuart, M.A.

**Name of University:** California School of Professional Psychology at Alliant International University

**University Advisor for this research:**

Nicholas Noviello, Ph.D.

*The Role of Social Support for Adolescents Diagnosed with Cancer*

[Click Here to View Presentation](#)

**First Author Name:** Olivia Tiffany, M.A.

**Name of University:** California School of Professional Psychology at Alliant International University, Los Angeles

**University Advisor for this research:**

Erin O'Callaghan, Ph.D.

*The Gut-Brain Axis: The Link Between Gut Dysbiosis and Autism Spectrum Disorder in Children*

[Click Here to View Presentation](#)

**First Author Name:** Samantha Torres, M.A.

**Name of University:** California School of Professional Psychology at Alliant International University

**University Advisor for this research:**

Nicholas Noviello, Ph.D.

*The Impact of Personality Traits on Happiness*

[Click Here to View Presentation](#)

### Congratulations to our 2020 LACPA Convention Poster Winners



**First Place: Sonya Fulgham, M.A.**

The Long-Term Effects of Cross-Generational and Historical Violence on African American Women and the Contingent Decline in their Interpersonal Relationships with Men

**Second Place: Alique Bedikian, Psy.D.**

Social, Political, and Psychodynamic Predictors of COVID Distress



**Third Place: Stacie Coveleski, Psy.D.**

An Examination of How Clinicians Diagnose and Treat Premenstrual Dysphoric Disorder (PMDD)

**LACPA Foundation's 2020 Presidential Award: Diamond Huffman, M.A.**

African Americans Underutilization of Mental Health Services: Religion as a Barrier





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www.LAGPA.org

The Lesbian and Gay Psychotherapy Assoc. of Southern California, Inc. (LAGPA) was established in 1992 to serve as an academic and social resource focused upon the psychological well-being of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer or Questioning individuals.

- LAGPA hosts academic seminars, LGBTQ social events and an annual conference.
- The LAGPA Directory of Practitioners lists psychotherapists knowledgeable of LGBTQ issues who are listed on our website [www.lagpa.org](http://www.lagpa.org).
- LAGPA is approved by the American Psychological Association (APA) to sponsor continuing education credits for psychologists, licensed clinical social workers, and marriage and family therapists.
- During the 2020 pandemic, LAGPA will present online seminars and Facebook pages focused upon LGBTQ issues affecting Psychologists, LCSW's, MSW's, MFT's.

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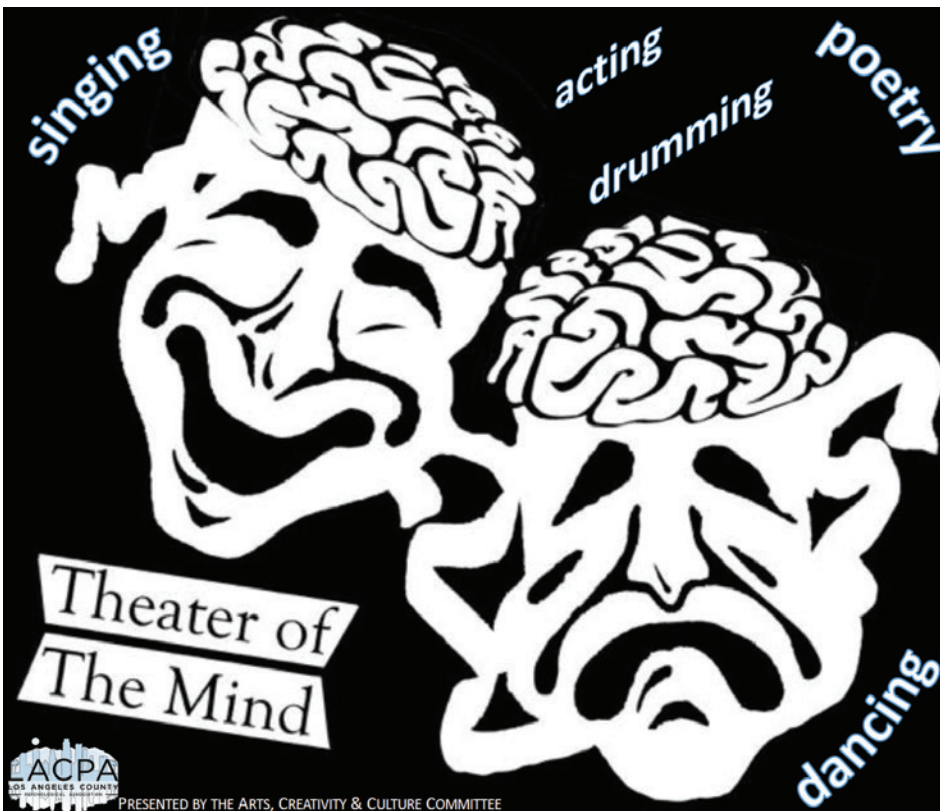
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### EVENT DETAILS

**When:** Saturday, Nov. 21, 2020

**Time:** 7:30pm

**Where:** Via Zoom

**Help us make this night special. We hope to see you there!**



# Navigating Social Security Disability Programs

A Handbook for Clinicians and Advocates

James Randall Noblitt and Pamela Perskin Noblitt

1 VOLUME

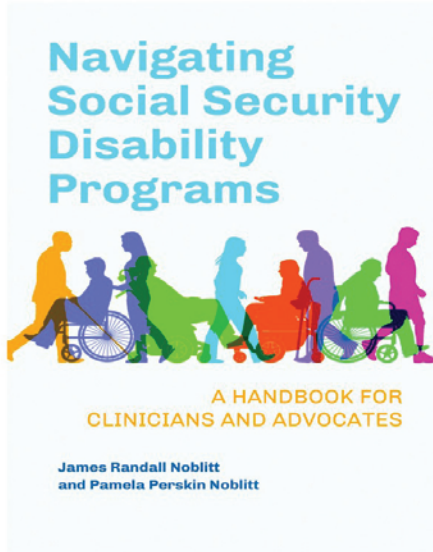
This text aims to bring clarity to medical and psychological health care providers so they better understand the importance of their role in disability determinations by familiarizing them with the benefits, limitations, and qualifications for Social Security Disability Insurance and Supplemental Security Income. Also useful for patient advocates, the authors here provide insights into the workings of Social Security, the language employed, the definitions adhered to, and the reliance on providers to respond to requests from Social Security and their patients to support their claims when warranted. Almost all medical and mental health professionals will need to interact with Social Security at some point, but will not understand the relevance or importance of their response. Much hangs on the clarity of treatment notes and opinions rendered by clinicians. Not only can their failure to respond to requests for Social Security, or to their patients in a disability case, obstruct their patients' access to benefits, it may also put a provider at risk of board censure or civil suit.

## FEATURES

Provides a realistic understanding of the Social Security Disability bureaucracy

Provides basic eligibility requirements and potential benefits

Suggests strategies for maintaining treatment records that respond to needs



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of Social Security

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Provides the ethical underpinning of clinicians' participation in the disability determination process

**James Randall Noblitt, PhD**, is a licensed psychologist in the state of Texas and a professor of clinical psychology and a member of the core faculty at the California School of Professional Psychology, Alliant International University, Los Angeles since 2006 and advocate for social justice who has assisted dozens of patients in applying for SSDI to cover psychological disabilities including PTSD. An Air Force veteran who worked as a psychologist with military and civilian populations, Noblitt is experienced in assisting patients who have become too incapacitated for employment and faced overwhelming obstacles when trying to obtain support to help them recover.

**Pamela Perskin Noblitt, EDPNA**, is a non-attorney Social Security disability claimant's representative who has advocated on behalf of more than 1,000 claimants in California, Utah, Nevada, New Mexico, Arizona, and Texas during her career. She was selected as one of 100 Women of 2000 by Eckerd's Salute to Women (2000).

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# UPCOMING LACPA EVENTS

## MONDAY, OCTOBER 19

### LACPA Book Club

7:00 - 8:00 PM via Zoom

Topic: Q&A Conversation Hour with  
Laurie Frankel, author of  
*This is How it Always Is*  
RSVP to Lynne Steinman, Ph.D.  
at [lasteinmanphd@gmail.com](mailto:lasteinmanphd@gmail.com)

## FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23

### Divorce, Separation, and Reconfigured Families Special Interest Group

12:00 - 1:30 PM via Zoom

Topic: The Non-Litigated Divorce and the Role  
of the Mental Health Professional  
Presenter: Philip Adler, Psy.D.  
RSVP to Philip Adler, Psy.D. [phil@phil-adler.com](mailto:phil@phil-adler.com)

## SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24

### Membership Committee

7:00 - 8:30 PM via Zoom

Game Night - Pictionary

[Click here to RSVP](#) for 10/24- Pictionary

## MONDAY, OCTOBER 26

### Virtual Assessment Special Interest Group

12:00 - 1:00 PM via Zoom

Topic: Monthly meeting

Crystal Lee, Psy.D. [dr.crystal.i.lee@gmail.com](mailto:dr.crystal.i.lee@gmail.com)  
To RSVP, [click here](#).

### Mirrors of the Mind Artist's Submission Deadline

[Click here for information](#)

Questions? Terry Marks-Tarlow at  
[markstarlow@hotmail.com](mailto:markstarlow@hotmail.com)

## TUESDAY, OCTOBER 27

### Child and Adolescent Special Interest Group

10:00 - 11:00 AM via Zoom

Topic: Dr. Prizant will discuss his best-selling book  
*Uniquely Human*, his SCERTS Model,  
and his new initiatives.

Presenter: Barry M. Prizant, Ph.D.  
RSVP to Daniel Franklin, Ph.D., at  
[dr.Franklin@FranklinEd.com](mailto:dr.Franklin@FranklinEd.com)

## THURSDAY, OCTOBER 29

### CBT Special Interest Group

11:30 AM - 1:00 PM via Zoom

Topic: OCD and Eating Disorders  
Presenter: Tanya Abughazaleh, Psy.D.  
RSVP to Jennifer Lynch, Psy.D., at  
[drlynch@renewedfreedomcenter.com](mailto:drlynch@renewedfreedomcenter.com)

## SATURDAY & SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 7 & 8

### LACPA CE Program Series

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## SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14

### Santa Clarita Book Club

10:00 AM - 12:00 PM via Zoom

*The Overstory*: A Novel by Richard Powers

RSVP to Dr. Lynne Steinman [lasteinmanphd@gmail.com](mailto:lasteinmanphd@gmail.com)  
or (661) 259-0144

## SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15

### Encino Book Club

3:00 - 5:00 PM via Zoom

*The Overstory*: A Novel by Richard Powers

RSVP to Dr. Sondra Goldstein at [4drsgold@gmail.com](mailto:4drsgold@gmail.com)  
or (818) 783-4683

### West Los Angeles Book Club

3:00 - 5:00 PM via Zoom

*The Overstory*: A Novel by Richard Powers

RSVP Dr. Lauren Wecker at [laurenwecker@gmail.com](mailto:laurenwecker@gmail.com)  
or (310) 383-1505

## SATURDAY NOVEMBER 21

### Theater of the Mind - *Our Voices, Our Stories*

7:30 PM - Open to all via Zoom

[Click here](#) for more information





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