

Agenda...

Friday March 4, 2016
11:00 - 1:00 PM Registration
1:00—1:15 PM Conference Welcome WATSA President
1:15 - 5:30 PM L. Maaike Helmus, Ph.D. <i>Advancing our understanding of risk assessment: What is it, what information does it provide, and how do we talk about its accuracy?</i>
Summary The pervasiveness of risk assessment in correctional decision-making necessitates a better understanding of what is being measured by risk scales and how to evaluate them. This presentation will discuss the nature of risk and risk scales/factors, the types of information risk scales provide, and what statistics are appropriate and inappropriate for assessing the accuracy of that information. The way forward in offender risk assessment is in improving our understanding of risk-relevant constructs and developing greater consistency in how we summarize and validate information from risk scales. This presentation is intended for both researchers and for clinicians who need to interpret and apply research findings in their work (e.g., those who may testify in court about their risk assessment practices).
3:15 - 3:45 PM Break
6:00 - 7:00 PM No Host Bar - Pre-conference Area
7:00 - 8:30 PM Dinner (Provided for all participants)

Saturday March 5, 2016
7:30—9:00 AM Continental Breakfast (Provided for all participants)
9:00 AM—5:30 PM Jennifer Wheeler, Ph.D. <i>Ethics in Mental Health Care: Emerging Issues and Controversies</i>
Summary Ethical principles and practices are an important, integral part of providing competent and effective mental health care, and to help us avoid causing harm to our clients. However in practice, we are often confronted with challenging ethical decisions in the face of changing standards, expectations, and situations, as the field continues to grow, and new technologies, techniques, and knowledge of human psychology emerges. Making these decisions are even more challenging when the new technique or knowledge is controversial or there is not consensus in the field.
Objectives <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Explore the foundational principles of professional ethics in the field of mental health.• Encourage participants to review their views on ethics and their approach to ethical decision-making• Learn about the controversies regarding the movement and expectations for using Empirically Supported Treatments (ESTs)• Learn about conflicting perspectives on the consequences of dual and multiple roles – Do they protect or harm• Discuss conflicts and controversies of nonsexual boundary crossings in clinical practice.
9:00—Noon Morning Session
10:15 - 10:45 AM Break
2:00—1:15 PM Lunch (Provided for all Participants)
Afternoon session 1:30 - 5:30 PM
Break 3:00 - 3:30 PM
<u>Dinner on your own</u>

Sunday March 6, 2016
8:00 AM Continental Breakfast (Provided for all participants)
9:00 AM - Noon
Problem Solving Panel <i>Did you know Washington State had a Parole Board?</i> Learn who is under the Board, criteria for release and Lifetime supervision for sex offenders.
 <i>How are Sex Offender Policies made in Washington State?</i> Learn the history of the Sex Offender Policy Board and current projects requested by the Legislature or Governor.
Moderator: Kecia Rongen
Panel Members:
Kecia Rongen
Jeff Patnode.
Michael O'Connell, Ph.D., MSW
10:00 - 10:15 AM Break
12:00 PM Conference Closes

Presenters...

L. Maaike Helmus, Ph.D.

L. Maaike Helmus is the Director of Research for the Global Institute of Forensic Research (GIFR). Her research interests focus on structured offender risk assessment, with particularly emphasis on groups such as sex offenders and Aboriginal offenders. She has been part of the development team for several structured risk assessment tools, including the STABLE-2007/ACUTE-2007, Static-99R, Static-2002R, and BARR-2002R. She has also developed a risk scale for predicting administrative segregation placements (the RAST). She is a certified trainer for Static-99R and Static-2002R, and has also taught undergraduate and graduate courses in statistics. She has received numerous grants and academic awards including the Governor General's Gold Medal and the Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers (ATSA) Pre-doctoral Research Grant. She has also served on the Executive Boards of both the Criminal Justice Section of the Canadian Psychological Association and ATSA.

Michael O'Connell, Ph.D.,MSW.

Michael O'Connell's introduction to social service work began in 1974, when he served as director of a Navy Correctional Center – i.e. the brig. He got his MSW from the University of Washington, intending to continue his career in correctional administration, but lost his way and ended up as a therapist doing inpatient substance abuse treatment. He began a private practice in 1980. In 1981, desperate for referrals, he began to work with sex offenders. He continues that work, today. Along the way he earned a Ph.D. in Counseling Psychology at the University of Washington, including doing research on using polygraph testing with sex offenders. He co-authored a book, "Working With Sex Offenders" which outlines standards of practice for community based treatment of sex offenders.

Jennifer Wheeler, Ph.D.

Jennifer Wheeler received her doctorate in Clinical Psychology from the University of Washington, with specialized training in the evaluation and treatment of human sexual behavior, including sexual offense behavior. She received pre- and post-doctoral training in criminal and civil forensic evaluations of adults and juveniles. She has worked in institution-based treatment settings in Washington State, including Echo Glen Children's Center, Twin Rivers Sex Offender Treatment Program, and the Special Commitment Center. She is the Past-President of the Washington Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers (WATSA), and also serves on the board of the national organization, the Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers (ATSA). She is also a board member of the Washington State chapter of the Association for Family and Conciliation Courts (WA-AFCC). She has published numerous articles and chapters on a variety of psychology topics, including forensic psychology, sexual behavior, and couple therapy. Currently, Dr. Wheeler maintains a private practice in clinical and forensic psychology in Seattle, WA.

Kecia Rongen.

Kecia Rongen, Chair of the Indeterminate Sentence Review Board, has worked within the criminal justice system for 19 years, specializing in the sexual offender population. Just prior to coming to the Board, she served as the Administrator for Sexual Offender Programs within the Juvenile Rehabilitation Administration. In addition, she has served on a number of legislative workgroups related to sex offender management. She has served as the Chair of the statewide Sex Offender Policy Board twice, currently and from 2010-2012 and is a former Board Member for the WA Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers. The Governor appointed her to the ISRB in 2012, and appointed her as Chair in September of 2015.

Jeff Patnode

Jeff Patnode has worked within the criminal justice system for nearly 24 years, specializing in the sexual offender population and evidence based programs. Prior to becoming an ISRB member, he served as the Juvenile Rehabilitation Administrator for Juvenile Sex Offender Programs as well as the Commissioner for Interstate Compact for Juveniles. He has served as the Vice-Chair for the Sex Offender Policy Board, Chair of the ESRC Juvenile Risk Level Committee and Washington State Council on Interstate Compact for Juveniles, and the Co-chair for the Juvenile Court Block Grant Oversight Committee. He has had oversight for statewide programs within state and the county criminal justice programs since 1999, focusing on disposition alternatives and evidence based program implementation as well as quality assurance development. He has worked with the sexual offender population in a variety of capacities to include direct service and program administration in both institution and parole/community programs. Jeff was appointed by the Governor to the Indeterminate Sentence Review Board in December of 2015.

Goals

WATSA is the Washington chapter of The Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers, ATSA.

ATSA is an international organization focused specifically on the prevention of sexual abuse through effective management of sex offenders and is strongly committed to the following goals:

- The elimination of sexual victimization.
- The protection of our communities through responsible and ethical treatment of sex offenders.
- The prevention of sexual assault through effective management of sex offenders.
- The maintenance of high standards of professionalism and integrity within its membership.

