



Division 12

CLINICAL SCIENCE

Society for the Science of Clinical Psychology
Section III of the Division of Clinical Psychology of
the American Psychological Association

Developing clinical psychology as an experimental-behavioral science



Newsletter

Spring 2009 Issue

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Clinical Science is published as a service to the members of Section III of the Division of Clinical Psychology of the American Psychological Association. The purpose is to disseminate current information relevant to the goals of our organization. We welcome proposals for **feature articles** (16 double-spaced pages) and **brief articles**. All articles should include 75-100-word abstracts and be formatted according to the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, 5th Ed.* Submit articles via E-Mail to [Erika Lawrence](mailto:erika-lawrence@uiowa.edu)
E-Mail: erika-lawrence@uiowa.edu

Articles published in *Clinical Science* represent the views of the authors and not necessarily those of the Society for a Science of Clinical Psychology, the Society of Clinical Psychology, or the American Psychological Association. Submissions representing differing views, comments, and letters to the editor are welcome.

President's Column

Howard N. Garb, Ph.D., *Lackland Air Force Base*

Not a Place for All of Us: The Society for a Science of Clinical Psychology

The Society for a Science of Clinical Psychology (SSCP) is not for everyone. Its members insist that psychology and mental health practice be guided by science. Not every decision can be made on the basis of science, but science has too often been ignored. The attitude of science is one of skepticism, and SSCP members are known for complaining about the status quo and demanding change. Perhaps for this reason over 45% of SSCP membership is made up of graduate students.

This is a unique philosophy. For example, a recent column by the President of APA's Division 12, The Society of Clinical Psychology, had the title "A Place for All of Us: The Society of Clinical Psychology" (Norcross, 2009). Norcross argued that, "The Society of Clinical Psychology should be an inclusive and welcoming place for clinical psychologists of all theoretical orientations" (p. 1). The Society of Clinical Psychology is an important organization, and there should be a society for all clinical psychologists. But that is not the role for SSCP. If it was, there would be no need for SSCP.

Section III of Division 12, which is now known as the Society for a Science of Clinical Psychology (SSCP), held its first official meeting in 1966 (Oltmanns and Krasner, 1993). It was founded in response to a concern that the profession of clinical psychology was not being guided by science. This theme has been echoed throughout the history of SSCP. Notably, in 1991, McFall wrote a "Manifesto for a Science of Clinical Psychology." He wrote:

The time has come for Section III - whose mission it is to promote a science of clinical psychology - to declare unequivocally that there is only one legitimate form of clinical psychology: grounded in science, practiced by scientists, and held accountable to the rigorous standards of scientific evidence. Anything less is pseudoscience. It is time to declare publicly that much of what goes on under the banner of clinical psychology today simply is

not scientifically valid, appropriate, or acceptable (p. 78).

Unfortunately, in the intervening years, science has not played a larger role in clinical psychology.

Although the role of science in clinical psychology has not increased over the years, SSCP has been an important organization to many people. I will describe one way in which SSCP had an important impact on my own career. In 1999, Jackie Persons asked me to Chair the SSCP Program at APA. One of the most dramatic moments of the ongoing Rorschach controversy occurred there, when James Wood and I debated Irving Weiner and Marvin Acklin. At the age of 44, this was my first conference presentation of any kind. I had a speech phobia, one reason why I had not gone into academia. To an overflowing crowd, I called for a moratorium on the clinical and forensic use of the Comprehensive System for the Rorschach (Exner, 2003). I was the only speaker who did not receive applause. I was later reassured on SSCPnet that not receiving applause can be a higher form of applause than being applauded. As a postscript, three of the strongest advocates for the Rorschach have subsequently gone on to "discourage clinicians from using many CS scores to make nomothetic, score-based inferences about psychopathology in children and adolescents" (Meyer, Erdberg, & Shaffer, 2007, p. S201). A number of CS normative scores for relatively normal adults were also found to deviate from results for relatively normal adults in international samples, raising the issue of whether the norms have been wrong and clinicians have made judgments that have been harmful to clients.

A recurring theme of the history of SSCP, and a recurring theme of this column, is that clinical psychology and other mental health fields need to become more responsive to science. A range of reasons exist for reaching this conclusion including findings on topics that reflect my interests: clinical judgment, problems with test norms, and problems with test validity.

In my own work, aside from my duties as SSCP President, efforts are underway to help the military become more responsive to science as it applies to mental health issues. As Director of the largest mental health screening program for the United States Air Force, our approach has been to collect extremely large data sets, obtain extensive outcome information, and make decisions using actuarial tables. Goals are to decrease the occurrence of posttraumatic stress disorder and other mental health problems, and to ensure the suitability of personnel working with nuclear weapons. In a future column, I will describe the activities of the SSCP Executive Board. Some of these efforts may be described in the accompanying articles in this issue of *Clinical Science*.

In conclusion, SSCP members are known for their skepticism and challenging attitude. This approach works well, as long as we are able to recognize when we are wrong and make self-corrections. Only with a skeptical attitude can we recognize the major problems in the field of clinical psychology.

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Secretary/Treasurer Report

Elizabeth Hayden, Ph.D.
University of Western Ontario

SSCP Membership (current as of mid-April, 2009)

Total: 441
Full: 230 (52%)
Students: 211 (48%)

Comments: We ended 2008 with a total membership of 494. This was a strong increase from the beginning of 2008 when we had 348 members, and is due in large part to our efforts to enforce membership dues as a condition of SSCP listserv participation. We are the largest section of Division 12 by a comfortable margin; however, the board and membership committee continue to strive for new ways to recruit and maintain our membership numbers.

Finances (current as of mid-April, 2009)

Current funds: \$21,590.63
Total income (since 1/09; includes interest): \$9341.96
Total expenditures (since 1/09): \$3,380.40

Comments: At the end of 2008, SSCP funds totaled \$15,629.07. We have since received \$8822.50 in 2009 membership dues, which are SSCP's primary source of income. Major expenses for 2009 to date have been the dissertation and distinguished scientist awards (\$3000.00).

SSCP Student Representatives' Update

Ashley Pietrefesa, M.A.
Binghamton University

Frank Farach, M.S.
Yale University

SSCP is truly committed to addressing students' needs and interests. Student-focused projects have been at the top of SSCP's agenda over the past year, and the efforts of many SSCP members – including Board, professional, and student members – have been hugely successful so far. We are excited to tell you about three recently launched projects that were specifically developed to serve students that are interested and involved in clinical science.

Student Website

Student members of SSCP now have a website designed especially for them! A link to the website, <http://www.sscpstudents.org>, can now be found on the homepage of SSCP's main website (<http://www.sscpweb.org>) for easy access. The SSCP student website contains a variety of valuable information, including student-related news, research awards and grant postings, links to professional development websites and online research tools, descriptions of current SSCP student projects, and SSCP membership information. The student website has undergone some revisions since it was originally unveiled, and we welcome additional feedback on its content and structure so we can continue to increase its utility and appeal. Please feel free to contact us with any suggestions you may have about <http://www.sscpstudents.org>!

Student Survey

You may have recently received an email invitation to participate in the online SSCP student survey, which was completed by approximately one-third of current/recent SSCP student members! Our primary purpose for distributing this anonymous survey is to learn more about the characteristics and interests of the SSCP student body. Via the survey, we have also been able to assess the extent to which SSCP student members are aware of the various resources and opportunities that are available to them through SSCP, and to solicit input on these membership features.

We also plan to send a similar survey to clinical psychology students who are not members of SSCP, allowing us to gauge awareness of and interest in SSCP on a broader scale. The information gathered from both the student member and non-member surveys will help us determine how SSCP can better serve students and will inform plans for student-oriented initiatives in 2009 and beyond. Aggregated results of the student surveys will appear in a subsequent issue of our column and eventually be posted on the SSCP student website – stay tuned!

Internship Directory Revision Project

One of the most valuable, yet seemingly under-recognized resources available to students of SSCP is the Internship Directory, which has been published by SSCP since 1974. The Directory provides a wealth of information about internship sites across the U.S. and Canada that does not exist in the APPIC directory or other internship databases. For example, the Directory contains information about an internship site's research expectations and opportunities, availability of funds for research, publications by interns that result from research involvement during the training year, research facilities/technology, training in empirically supported interventions, and more. Given that the most recent edition of the Directory was published in 2004, an updated, 7th edition of the internship directory is currently being developed by a revision committee that consists of a professional and a student member of SSCP, as well as a representative of Academy of Psychological Clinical Science. The committee is utilizing feedback gained from the student survey to design the Directory and make it more accessible and helpful to prospective interns. It is anticipated that the new edition of the Directory will be available on the SSCP website by late summer of 2009. We hope that prospective interns will take advantage of this unique tool to aid them in choosing training sites to which they will apply.

Attention students!

The **SSCP Student Website** is now available and designed just for you!

Visit www.sscpstudents.org for information on:

Opportunities for research awards and grants

Online research tools

Internship and professional development resources

Current SSCP student projects

Membership in SSCP

And much more!

Empirically Supported Treatments

Division 12 has a newly designed webpage: www.div12.org.

Of particular interest is a link for Empirically Supported Treatments, created by Dr. David Klonsky.

You can also reach the EST page by going directly to: <http://www.psychology.sunysb.edu/eklonsky-/division12>.

Division 12 Update

David F. Tolin, Ph.D., ABPP

The Institute of Living and Yale University School of Medicine

The Board of Division 12 met on January 30-31, 2009. Several items may be of interest to SSCP members. First, it was noted that both APA and Division 12 are anticipating a reduction in membership over the coming year, and both are actively pursuing new strategies for member recruitment and retention. Particular efforts are being aimed at increasing APA and Division enrollment among graduate students in clinical psychology programs (a plug: psychologists and students with an interest in practice, research, teaching, or administration are cordially invited to join; membership benefits include receiving Division 12 publications *The Clinical Psychologist* and *Clinical Psychology: Science and Practice* and access to the Division 12 listserv; student affiliates do not have to be APA members). APA is continuing the tradition of showcasing Section student awardees in a social hour and poster session at the annual Convention. This year, we are fortunate that SSCP Dissertation Awardees Amanda Steiner (University of Virginia) and Eunyoe Ro (University of Iowa) will be in attendance. Division 12 is seeking calls for nominations for editors of its journal *Clinical Psychology: Science and Practice* and its newsletter *The Clinical Psychologist*; please visit the web site (www.div12.org) for details. Finally, under the direction of Dr. David Klonsky, Division 12 has launched www.PsychologicalTreatments.org, a new web site that provides an updated, online version of the list of empirically supported treatments first published by Division 12 in 1995. The purpose of this web site is to provide information about effective treatments for psychological disorders to clinicians, researchers, students, and the general public.

SSCP-Related Events at the 2009 APS Convention

May 22nd -25th in San Francisco, CA

Friday, May 22nd :

10:00 - 11:50 AM (Pacific C): Annual SSCP Members Meeting

Saturday, May 23rd:

8:00 - 9:00 AM (Golden Gate Exhibit Hall): SSCP Student Poster Session (Session IV)

3:00 - 3:50 PM (Nob Hill C-D): SSCP Distinguished Scientist Award Address -- William Iacono, *The Development of Addiction and Related Problem Behavior*

4:00 - 4:50 PM (Yerba Buena 10-11): APS Award Address -- Lyn Abramson, Lauren Alloy, *A Behavioral Approach System Dysregulation Perspective on Bipolar Spectrum Disorders: Theory and Evidence*

Sunday, May 24th:

9:00 AM – 3:00 PM: SSCP/Academy of Psychological Clinical Science Clinical Track Sessions

9:00 - 10:20 AM (Yerba Buena 5-6): Invited Symposium, Chair: Judy Garber, *From Basic Developmental Psychopathology to Prevention Science: Exemplars of Translational Research*. Presenters: Bruce E. Compas, Geraldine Dawson, & Thomas J. Dishion.

10:30 - 11:50 AM (Yerba Buena 5-6): Invited Symposium, Chair: Don Tucker, *Self Regulation, Executive Processes, and Psychopathology*. Presenters: Joseph P. Newman, Suzanne C. Segerstrom, & Don Tucker.

1:00 - 1:50 PM (Yerba Buena 5-6): Invited Address, Tyrone Cannon, *Memory Systems, Brain Plasticity and Susceptibility Genes for Schizophrenia*

2:00 - 2:50 PM (Yerba Buena 5-6): Invited Address, Cathy Spatz Widom, *What Has Become of Abused and Neglected Children*

Additionally, SSCP/the Academy has a number of exciting symposia that will be presented on Saturday and Sunday. See <http://psychologicalscience.org/convention>.

2010 SSCP Dissertation Grant Awards

Applications are now being accepted for SSCP Dissertation Grant Awards. These awards are intended to both recognize and support students who have already received approval for their dissertation project. Accordingly, in addition to the evaluation of the proposal as a whole, we will also consider what additional sources of funding have been received in the context of the overall estimated cost of the project. Awards will be in the amount of \$500. It is anticipated that up to 5 grants will be funded. Eligibility requirements and application instructions are listed below.

Applications must be received by November 14, 2009.

Notification of awards will be made in early January of 2010.

Eligibility requirements:

1. Student member of SSCP. Annual student membership fee in SSCP is \$10. The membership application form can be downloaded or submitted on-line at: www.sscpweb.org.
2. Current enrollment in an APA or CPA approved doctoral program in Clinical Psychology.
3. Dissertation proposal approved by applicant's department (verified in advisor's letter).

The application should include the following:

1. **Cover letter** indicating applicant's name, school affiliation, mailing address, phone number, e-mail address, title of the project, and a statement that dissertation proposal has been approved.
2. **Research Plan** (MAXIMUM OF 5 SINGLE-SPACED PAGES INCLUDING REFERENCES).
 - a. **Specific Aims:** List broad objectives and what the specific research proposed in this application is intended to accomplish.
 - b. **Background and Significance:** Briefly sketch the background leading to the present application, critically evaluate existing knowledge, and specifically identify the gaps that the project is intended to fill.
 - c. **Preliminary Studies:** Use this section to provide account of applicant's preliminary studies (if any) pertinent to the application and/or any other information that will help establish the experience and ability of the applicant to pursue the proposed project.
 - d. **Research Design and Methods:** Describe the research design and the procedures to be used to accomplish the specific aims of the project. Include how the data will be collected, analyzed, and interpreted.
3. **Abstract** (MAXIMUM OF 250 WORDS, the abstract page does NOT count towards the 5 page maximum for the research plan).
4. Outline of **Budget** and listing of additional sources of funding (How do you propose to spend the award? What funding have you already received? To which additional sources of funding have you applied?) MAXIMUM OF 1 PAGE.
5. **Curriculum Vitae**
6. A brief **letter** from dissertation advisor confirming your good standing in the program and stating that the dissertation prospectus has been approved. This letter should be sent directly from the advisor to denise.sloan@va.gov.

Submit application electronically to Dr. Denise Sloan at Denise.Sloan@va.gov.

Please include the entire application, including cover letter, in one document file.

The advisor's letter should be sent directly by the advisor. A confirmation of receipt will be sent within 2 business days.